

The Journal

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Volume XII, No. 36

Thursday, May 7, 1998

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Worth Checking Out

First annual Groove Fest

The first annual "Groove Fest" will be held at the Albany High School Little Theater May 15 and 16. Featuring the exciting R & B Band Rhythm Bound in their scheduled appearance this year, and the award winning AHS Jazz Band, The Groove Fest is a benefit to replace used and worn instruments at Albany High. Both bands will be performing new material at all three shows. The first day of the Groove Fest is Friday May 15, at 8 p.m. at the AHS Little Theater. Music and music enthusiasts will have two opportunities to see and support these talented young musicians Saturday, the first show beginning at 4:30 p.m., the second at 8 p.m. Three performances will also feature newly-formed jazz quintet, "District." Tickets: \$4 for students and \$6 for adults. Details: 559-6550, ext. 4748.

Friends of EC Library

The Friends of the El Cerrito Library will hold their 1998 Annual Meeting from 8:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13 at the Library at 6510 Stockton St. There will be a brief business meeting, which will include a vote on three amendments to the Friends' By-Laws. Following the business meeting, featured speaker will be Tsukiyama, El Cerrito resident and nationally-acclaimed author of "Women of Silk," "The Samurai's Garden" and a newly-released "Night of Many Moons," will answer questions about the art of writing and her own work. Refreshments will be served.

Sustainable El Cerrito

County Supervisor Jim Rogers will speak about public transportation and affordable housing at this month's general meeting of Sustainable El Cerrito on May 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the El Cerrito Male Retirement Residence, 3rd Floor, 6510 Glady's, El Cerrito. Announcements and informal discussion about trans issues at 7:30 p.m. Jim Rogers talk at 8 p.m. Use main entrance, behind St. John's Community Center, on the driveway/BART side of the building. Details: Lori Dair, 232-6466.

Kensington book sale

The Kensington Community Center (aka the Youth Hut), 59 Arlington Ave. will be filled with new and used books for sale at reasonable prices. Saturday, May 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, May 10, a.m. to 3 p.m.

Albany Farmers Market

Albany Farmers Market reopens Thursday, May 7 from 4 p.m. to dusk on the corner of Solano Avenue and Ventura.

Annie Get Your Gun

Masquers Playhouse of Point Richmond presents a special Mother's Day evening of Irvin Berlin's musical, "Annie Get Your Gun." The gala concert with champagne and canapés is Sunday, May 17 at 7 p.m., and continue on May 17, 7 p.m., May 22, 8 p.m., and May 23, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. All profits will benefit the Masquers Retro-fit Fund. For reservations call 232-3888.

Kensington Lions

The Kensington Lions Club meets Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. at the Portofino, 385 Colusa Ave., Kensington. The speaker for the May 13 meeting will be Ron Wittenberg from the West Contra Costa Education Fund. Interested visitors welcome. Details: 528-8746.

Beanie Baby benefit

It's still time for Beanie Baby collectors to get a raffle ticket at Betty's Hallmark at the El Cerrito Plaza before the May 9, 2 p.m. drawing for a Princess Bear (and prize) or one of three other raffle collectibles complete with display case. Tickets are \$5, with proceeds benefiting the El Cerrito Richmond High School Toy Program.

Other's Day Tea

Looking for something new and different for Mom this Mother's Day? How about Tea at the UC Botanical Garden? The Botanical Garden boasts thousands of plants, most of which will display their full flowering glory. Enjoy a luscious tea with sandwiches and sweets. Seatings are at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Cost: \$10 per person, \$8 for members. Details, reservations: 643-6555. Space is limited.

Site plan buys Plaza owners some more time

■ *No department store or town square was included in the proposal, nor are cost or revenue projections.*

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — When all was said and done at last Monday's city council/redevelopment agency meeting, the council/agency voted to punt and give the Plaza owners 60 more days to work out their problems and come up with an acceptable site plan.

Agency member Norman LaForce, who called the situation a "pig-in-the-poke," voted

against giving another extension to principal owners, American Stores Properties Inc. and the El Cerrito Plaza Company. He noted that after months of negotiations the two have not yet revealed how much financial assistance they want from the city to develop the Plaza. "So what is it they want from us and how much?" LaForce asked after pointing out that if the partners didn't want public money for the project they could build anything they wanted on their properties as long as it's within code.

But other Agency members seemed concerned that if they didn't give the owners more time now, the entire Plaza development process could be set back and delayed for

years.

Agency chair Mark Friedman said he would like to see "several scenarios" for the Plaza and maintained that the "urban village" concept is not mutually exclusive with having a department store. Friedman said he wants to see a Plaza with a "unique flavor" that is a "true gathering place for the community." But he also acknowledged El Cerrito has to consider economic realities and that to start the process over at this point could delay Plaza development for years. It's best to work with the owners "so that we can get this done sooner rather than later," he said.

And it was quite a gathering. The council chamber was full to capacity and about 20

American Stores is also continuing talks about a 'super store' in the Del Norte area: Page A3

more people sat in an "overflow" room watching the proceedings on TV. People stood in the doorways peering in at the Agency and the developers' concept plan.

Partners' plan scrutinized; Gottschalks boosters out in force

Henry Englehardt, representing American Stores, and project architect Bud Johnson See SITE on page A14

Hoop dreams



This year the City of El Cerrito had its first season ever of the Girls Hoops league. The league was such a success that El Cerrito has accepted an invitation to a National Basketball Tournament in San Diego today through Sunday. The winners of this tournament will advance to the finals held in Kentucky. The girls have spent many hours conditioning and practicing for this big weekend. The Journal joins the community in wishing the talented squad (above: Rebekah Weber, Erin Turner, Brittany Sims, Tera Kaye, Vanessa Pratt, Julia Meese, Francesca Petroni, Anna Chang, Christina Harrison and Jaime Young) the best of luck in San Diego. The expenses for this trip are being paid for by donation only, so if you would like to contribute contact Renee Hoyer-Nielsen or Samantha Kelman at 215-4375.

Community day at races is Saturday

By Greg Hugunin

ALBANY — Residents young and old have been invited to the annual Albany Day at the Races at Golden Gate Fields this Saturday, an event at which they can get to know their local racetrack and raise money for non-profit groups at the same time.

"It's just a great day and a lot of

fun. Bring the family," said Fern Luoma, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, which, along with Hills Newspapers, sponsors the event. According to Luoma, this year's Day at the Races will, in fact, be the 29th such outing, which started as a small social event and grew from there to the fund raiser it

See RACES on page A14

Albany has millions in projects on docket

By Greg Hugunin

ALBANY — Rain has delayed the Solano Avenue construction project, the new high school and middle school are moving along, the Albany Teen Center has yet to find a new home, and UC Berkeley officials have indicated they are ready to begin bargaining over replacement play fields at University Village, City Council and School Board members learned at a joint meeting held Monday.

With some of the most sweeping capital projects Albany has seen in decades underway or set to begin this summer, members of the city's two top governing bodies met at City Hall to compare notes, trade information and set strategies to

help the various projects along. While council members have their \$2 million Solano Avenue project to worry about, the school board plans to spend nearly \$60 million on new facilities in the next few years, and members of both agencies expressed interest in how play fields will fit into the picture of the even-more-massive replacement of student housing at the village, the first phase of which will begin in June.

Though council and board members have had their disagreements in the past, Monday's hour-long meeting proved a sedate affair, with members of both bodies disagreeing little and offering — and asking for — help from their counterparts.

See PROJECTS on page A11

Christmas comes early for deserving residents

■ *For an Albany couple, the work on their home was a gift beyond their expectations.*

By Greg Hugunin

ALBANY — It had it all: Sunshine, soft drinks, pizza, a two-piece bluegrass combo, plus a few free T-shirts, a few more free baseball caps and a whole, whole lot of power tools.

The event: one of three Christmas in April volunteer projects held in Albany on April 25, where community and neighborliness were the names of the game and everyone received something in the end.

"We're using it as a neighborhood-building experience for everyone to get together and get to know each other," said House Captain and regular Christmas in April volunteer Dana Milner, a contractor who, along with 40 or so volunteers,

set about bringing an early holiday to Talbot Avenue residents Mario and Rita Camargo.

An elderly couple who have lived in their home since the 1950s, the Camargos experienced up to a foot of water in their apartment during winter rains because of a lack of waterproofing both inside and out.

Of course, when the Christmas in April crew shows up, no repair, big or small, is left undone.

Over the course of three weekends, volunteers waterproofed the home, installed a new window, painted, rewired, installed safety bars and a new peep hole in the front door, bolted the home to its foundation for seismic safety, installed a new rug and cleared the back yard, all for the low, low price of free.

The fire department installed extinguishers and fire alarms; the Earthquake Preparedness Program repaired dry-rot;

the City of Albany waived the fees; Big 4 Rents donated dumpsters with which to haul the debris away.

"We got tremendous support. I could go on and on," said project First Mate Christina Van Horn, pointing out that Domino's donated pizza, local musicians Dave Simon and Suzanne Klein donated their voices, and, of course, volunteers ranging from high school students to local contractors donated their hard work and time.

"I'm glad everybody's coming to help out. It would be pretty hard for us to do this ourselves," said a grateful Mario Camargo as busy volunteers clambered over his home. As for the volunteers themselves, having done a good deed seemed thanks enough. "It's about helping the fellow man," said volunteer Paul Walker, owner of El Cerrito's own Walker's Plumbing. "Hey, that's how I do things. That's what life's about."



An enthusiastic work crew at the Camargos.

A woman president — in El Cerrito?

EL CERRITO — After 30 years as a member of Mira Vista Country Club, Cathy Susman is now presiding over it — and making history at the same time. Susman is the new president of the Mira Vista board of directors, the first woman country club president ever in the Bay Area and one of only five women presidents in the nation.

Susman has been a steady presence at Mira Vista since becoming an active golfer in 1969. She chaired the Women's Invitational in 1970 a

post she held for two years, and was captain of the Women's Golf Association in 1971.

She was also editor of "Fore," Mira Vista's monthly newsletter for 14 years, and has organized and continues to hold annual charity bridge and gin rummy tournaments at the club that raise \$2,000 a year for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

She was elected to the seven-member Mira Vista board in 1996, serving as vice president and Men's Tournament chairman for two years

before her election as president in January. The position at the prestigious club is far more than ceremonial, and Susman has been spending considerable time not only at meetings for Mira Vista but also at meetings for country clubs around the Bay Area.

Susman is the wife of former Oakland Tribune sports cartoonist Lee Susman. The couple both previously widowed, married in 1996 (with reception held at Mira Vista, of course), and reside in El Cerrito.



Cathy Susman

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■ Letters to the Editor

Soccer parents call for AUDS to support girls

coach

The Journal received a copy of the following letter addressed to Dale Hudson, Superintendent Albany Schools and the Albany School Board: We are parents of the Albany High School girls varsity soccer players who participated in the game against Richmond High School this past season that culminated in an attack on several Albany players by Richmond players. We expected that, after all the facts were known, the school district would make a public statement in support of the Albany coach, Julie Gall. The district's failure to make such a statement prompts us to write.

It is undisputed that during the incident at Richmond several Albany players were physically attacked and that neither the league referees nor the Richmond coach were in control of the situation. The Albany players, the parents who were there and Ms. Gall all believed that the players were at risk of serious injury before Ms. Gall intervened with pepper spray to rescue them. Our children and parents in attendance assure us that Ms. Gall's intervention was responsible for ending the violence and protecting the Albany players from serious harm.

We are dismayed that the school district has been reluctant to support Ms. Gall's actions, apparently due to fear of lawsuits. While accounts of the incident may vary somewhat in particulars, there is no question that Mr. Gall used pepper spray because she saw no alternative to protect our children, whose safety should be of paramount concern to the district. For this reason, the school district should be on record as unequivocally supporting Ms. Gall's actions. Given the volatility of the situation and the inaction of the

referees and the Richmond coach, all males, Ms. Gall might well have justified, out of concern for her own safety, to emulate those other officials and do nothing. That, apparently, is what the school district believes she should have done. Imagine the outcry, not to mention the potential liability for the district, if she had not intervened and players had been seriously injured. Ms. Gall should be commended for her bravery and concern for student safety. Instead, she has been left twisting in the wind by the district, leaving her reputation unfairly impugned.

Besides being grossly unfair to Ms. Gall, the school district's failure to publicly support her sends a potentially dangerous message throughout the district. The next time a similarly volatile incident occurs, the district coach or teacher in charge will certainly think twice before intervening to protect students. We do not believe that the district should be sending such a message to the people we entrust with the safety of our children.

The parents of the Albany High School girls varsity soccer team have already publicly and unequivocally stated their support for Ms. Gall. We urge the school district to rethink its shortsighted position and make a similar public statement of support.

Parents of Albany High School's Girls Varsity Soccer Team

Why Jim Rogers deserves your vote

Editor:

I'm going to vote for Supervisor Jim Rogers.

Jim was central to passage of the "Good Neighbor" ordinance, which forces the refineries in our county to be more safety-conscious and more accountable for toxic releases and industrial

accidents. He helped hammer out Measure A, the library sales tax—an accomplishment which required prodigious negotiating skill, patience and commitment. He has taken developers' campaign contributions and still cheerfully voted against their projects.

I admire that.

As a Supervisor, Jim has been conscientious, accessible and capable. He refuses to "go negative" in his campaign for reelection, choosing instead to focus on what he has already accomplished for his constituents and what he hopes to accomplish in his next term. I applaud his decision and the courage he shows in sticking to it, despite what must be a strong temptation to "fight back".

He's a good man and he deserves your vote.

He's got mine.

Thom Stark
El Cerrito

HIV/AIDS education is everyone's concern

Editor:

As a kick-off to the first ever county-wide HIV/AIDS education campaign, the Board of Supervisors has declared May 1998 as Contra Costa AIDS Awareness Month. To date, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has caused more than 4,000 infections and more than 1,900 deaths among Contra Costans. Our county can increase the impact of the new "You have the Power to Stop AIDS" campaign by:

Providing comprehensive HIV/AIDS education in schools, churches, and communities. Many Contra Costans remain misinformed about HIV transmission, and people living with HIV and AIDS continue to

See LETTERS on page A11

Letters to the Editor

Mr. & Mrs. Jon Smith
123 Bay Street
Oakland, CA 94611



The city gave Portola two trees to plant. The treeing planting team was Dick and Sarah Winter and three generations of Bayals-Hassan, Hossain and Rayan. Sarah and Rayan are students at Portola.

Congratulations to everyone for a successful Earth Day

Editor:

The 1998 Earth Day in El Cerrito was a great "feel good" event. By improving the environment in which my family and friends live is a satisfying feeling even if the results may only be seen by a small population. Every little bit helps. . . Janet Abelson should be congratulated as well as the other organizers for the event. Janet asked me if I would like to co-coordinate with Vicki Berndt the Portola Middle School cleanup. Janet's "style" and

example inspired me to pitch in to do everything possible to make my part of the event a success. Putting together Earth Day must be a huge task to organize with many details to be thought of and coordinated. It takes a certain type of drive and personality to accomplish such a large task. Janet deserves a round of applause for all her efforts. Thank you Janet Abelson and the Earth Day organizing team.

Joann Steink-Bayat
El Cerrito

■ Mayor's Desk

Why your presence at residential parking session is important

By Bruce Mast
Mayor of Albany

On Tuesday, May 12, the Albany City Council and Planning Commission will hold special joint work session to discuss residential parking requirements. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and your attendance is important. But, you might ask what is broken that needs fixing? In a nutshell, the City has a vision for San Pablo Avenue that includes mixed use development with residential units over ground-floor commercial uses. The City also has an obligation, established by state law, to provide its regional fair share of affordable housing. Progress toward realizing the vision and meeting our regional obligations has been effectively stymied by the City's residential parking requirements, established by

Albany's first joint session on residential parking requirements is Tuesday, May 12, 7:30 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers (1000 San Pablo Ave.).

citizen's initiative in 1978.

In 1978, Albany voters passed Measure D, which was written to accomplish three important goals:

- Provide greater protection to Albany Hill;
- Preserve the single-family residential character of Albany's neighborhoods; and
- Avoid parking gridlock on residential streets.

The measure has been remarkably successful at achieving its stated goals, but the parking requirements have had some unintended side-effects.

Measure D requires two parking spaces per dwelling unit for all residential uses in all zoning districts. The intent was, as the ballot argument stated, "to keep cars of new two and three car families from being added to those already parked on our streets." Applied to single-family residential districts with numerous two-income families and multiple cars per household, the requirement accomplishes its stated purpose fairly.

Applied to multi-family districts, the measure has effectively excluded new housing for seniors, students, the disabled, and single heads of households.

The bottom line is that multi-family projects with a mix of studios, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units do not need anywhere near two parking spaces per unit. Albany's smaller parcels will not physically accommodate the required parking. Where there is space, the costs of providing excess parking makes the resulting units unaffordable to their target market.

The Albany General Plan, adopted in 1992, recognized residential parking as a major issue and included a recommendation to offer voters a revised set of parking ordinances that would allow for variations in the parking requirement, depending on the type and size of the dwelling unit. Toward that end, the City Council has established a Zoning Technical Advisory Committee to review the entire zoning ordinance, including the parking regulations.

The advisory committee has developed a set of recommendations for addressing residential parking, which it will present to the City Council and Planning Commission on Tuesday. The goal is to send a parking ordinance to the voters of the November ballot. To meet the County Registrar's timetable, the City Council needs to make a final decision on the ordinance language by the end of July. After that, there can be no changes to the ordinance language; so it is important for you to provide your input now.

Your first chance is Tuesday, May 12, 7:30 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers (1000 San Pablo Ave.). See you there.

■ Political forum

An open letter to West County parents

By Glen Price

Dear Fellow Parents:

The other day I was at a youth soccer game and a toddler screamed "Mommy!" from the direction of the play structure and started crying. Instantly, about 25 heads turned at the same time ready to run and help.

Fortunately, the child's mother was just a few steps away and it was just a mild fall.

When children reach out, on instinct we respond — it doesn't take a lot of thought or planning, we just do it.

As parents of school children here in the state of California we are on a difficult journey together. We confront decisions and choices our own parents never dreamed of. As support for public

education has steadily eroded, our state has gone from being a national leader to 37th in per pupil spending. Here in the West County, the problem is further exacerbated by the painful bankruptcy experienced by our district and the resulting 30 year mortgage of our children's future.

Nowhere is the pain of this fall more apparent than in our school facilities. We would probably never expose our children at home to some of the situations confronted in many of our schools: leaky roofs, cracked and unsafe playgrounds, and aging heating and cooling systems. Our middle schools are overcrowded.

I know that you are concerned about these conditions. Last fall, when you elected me to the school board I had the

opportunity to talk with you as I walked your neighborhoods and in meetings throughout the district. I pledged that I would seek to place a school bond on the ballot at the earliest possible opportunity in order to obtain funds to begin to do the urgent repairs our schools need and to build a new middle school.

What once seemed an impossible dream is now within our grasp. Because of the great strides our district has made in its financial management, it now has a credit rating of sufficient quality to enable it to seek bond financing.

But there is a crucial hurdle we must first pass over. On June 2, voters must pass the bond (Measure E) by a two-thirds vote.

To date, the campaign for

Measure E has generated unprecedented community support. All five city councils in West County, the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association, the Council of Industry, the League of Women Voters, Contra Costa Interfaith Sponsoring Committee, the Richmond and El Cerrito Chambers of Commerce and hundreds of organizations and individuals of all walks of life have endorsed Measure E.

But to reach that crucial two-thirds threshold every concerned individual must now get involved in the campaign. That is where we parents come in. We can't expect someone else to do this for us. If we want our children and their teachers to go to school in safe learning environments, we are the ones who have to make it happen.

The Measure E campaign urgently needs volunteers to walk

precincts, make phone calls, and send out "Dear Friend" cards. To volunteer please call Robin Winton at 527-2783 right away.

Our public schools gave many of us our own education - now it is our turn to pass them on to our children. But we must as a community make the investment to keep them safe and sound and, right now, the investment our community's children need is some of your time in this campaign.

If you're not a parent and you've read this far, welcome aboard! Community members of all ages and backgrounds have recognized the critical nature of this campaign and are working for passage of Measure E - but we need you too. Please volunteer today.

The time is now to join hands for Measure E!

■ Viewpoint

Creek by any other name still valuable

From his home high in the El Cerrito hills, George Amberg asked us to face the "reality" that Baxter Creek is not a creek (The Journal, April 23). Those of us who live near the creek, however, wonder just how much of its reality Mr. Amberg can see from so far away.

While he was poring over old maps and yellowed newspaper articles, the Friends of Baxter Creek were working ankle deep in the mud on Earth Day, removing shopping carts, litter, and debris from the water and planting native shrubs and wildflowers along the Ohlone Greenway. We know that Baxter Creek is a creek because we walk past its slow-moving waters every morning on our way to work. We know that the creek meanders because we've followed every inch of its watercourse with our children on weekends, searching for glimpses of the rare fish, frogs, and insects that make their home in the water. We know that the creek is more than a ditch because we marvel every day at the multitude of reeds, grasses, native plants, and birds thriving in and around the water.

And we know a red herring when we see it. In the midst of every environmental battle, an argument like Mr. Amberg's is raised to legitimize the destruction of natural resources. We're not sure what vested interests are being served by repeating this argument over and over, but the 225 members of Friends of Baxter Creek are not fooled by this tactic. We know that Baxter Creek is still a creek whether or not its course was altered at some point in its history (probably by the Santa Fe Railroad), whether or not people have referred to it by other names in the past, and whether or not developers and city officials have labeled it as a ditch to legitimize its demise.

Despite Mr. Amberg's opinion that a park in this area "would not be a pleasant place to stay long," those of us who cleaned up Baxter Creek on Earth Day were delighted to discover what a pleasant area it was to visit during the many hours we spent there. Perhaps if he had joined us, Mr. Amberg would have been more

See CREEK on page A10

The Journal

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339-6010 or come in person to 5707 Redwood Road. To place a display ad, call (510) 339-4030.

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Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must concern Albany/El Cerrito issues. They should not exceed 750 words. Letters may be edited for clarity. We reserve the right not to publish a letter. Letters must include the name, signature, address and phone number of the writer.

Deadline

Items for publication should reach us 10 days in advance.

Cost, other issues remain on Del Norte Lucky Store

Political Notes

Company will meet with neighbors, creek supporters to seek a resolution to unresolved concerns

by J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — Neighbors worried about increased truck deliveries, nature lovers praised Baxter Creek and its flora, the Lucky Store said he thought a compromise could be achieved and the Redevelopment Advisory Committee chairperson worried that El Cerrito would be stuck with another park it can't afford to maintain.

About 20 members of the public attended last week's Redevelopment Advisory Committee meeting to hear the Lucky Store representative outline the latest site proposal for a new store at Macdonald and San Pablo avenues in north El Cerrito. In the end, the committee urged the Lucky Stores and its preservation group called the Friends of Baxter Creek to continue to negotiate and work together to develop a site plan acceptable to all.

Bruce Qualls, Real Estate Manager for American Stores Properties, Lucky's corporate parent, didn't have a new site plan ready for review, but he talked to people's concerns and made his points forthrightly. There was none of the "take it or leave it" rhetoric that characterized Lucky's presentation at RAC's Feb. 24 meeting.

Qualls said he would like to see a bigger, more modern store at the site while restoring and improving the creek. "We're not giving up on this process," he said. Qualls did not rule out the possibility of the old store essentially being remodeled and enlarged at its current site. He said he hopes to have a site plan acceptable to all ready within the next two to three months.

On the Friday before the RAC meeting, Qualls and the project architect met with representatives of the Friends of Baxter Creek. Maryann Aberg, a spokesperson for the group, characterized the meeting as a "frank but cordial discussion of the issues." Aberg said the

concept of building the new store on the footprint of the existing one (with some westward expansion) "makes much more economic sense for El Cerrito than expansion south on top of the creek. Such a design will not require public money to subsidize a private company's perceived need to expand."

Because the proposed site, south and west of the existing store, is a designated target in the North Gateway Development Area, the Agency may give tax breaks or other incentives to companies that develop there. It may pay costs related to relocating existing businesses and any environmental clean-up required. The estimated cost to buy

'We're not giving up on this process.'

—BRUCE QUALLS, REAL ESTATE MANAGER FOR AMERICAN STORES PROPERTIES

the land and relocate businesses is \$775,000 — any toxic clean-up (if needed), legal services or other professional work would cost extra. Elisa Tierney, the city's redevelopment program manager, points out that

who pays for what and how much is subject to negotiations between the Agency, Lucky and other affected businesses using the site.

Creek remains issue

Some in the city consider Baxter Creek to be little more than a drainage ditch and the staff report prepared for the RAC meeting describes the waterway as a "seasonal creek/drainage facility which was created by the construction of the Santa Fe railroad many years ago." But whether or not what is now called Baxter Creek is a man-made ditch or a natural stream, it is clear that its presence and possible restoration is dear to the hearts of many.

Jim McKissock, who has studied the creek and its flora and fauna, passed out an information sheet about the stream. McKissock labeled Baxter Creek as the middle branch of Stege Creek. He claims the waterway holds the "last significant population" of Narrow Leaved Cattail and the "last rem-

nant population" of Seepspring Monkey Flower and Water Primrose in El Cerrito. McKissock estimates creek length at 679 feet and said that there is about 7,615 square feet of biomass (plants, bushes and other living things) inside Baxter Creek's banks.

Some of the people in the audience seemed more Lucky-wary than pro-creek.

Neighbor James Williams complained of current traffic and truck deliveries and said he feared a larger store would increase the number of cars and trucks using Key Boulevard on the east side of the store. "Tons of asphalt and concrete will imprison my neighborhood," said Williams, who listed nine grocery stores he said are within a three-mile radius of the site. Williams wondered if a larger store is really necessary given the number of su-

permarkets already in the area.

Qualls said he didn't think a larger store would necessarily mean more deliveries — the delivery trucks would probably come in more filled, he explained. Qualls also said the number of grocery stores in any given area is "a function of population density" and that north El Cerrito can indeed support a larger Lucky supermarket.

Revenue projections, possible costs

The new store would include a deli, bakery, bank, drugstore and photo and film developing in addition to a wider selection of foods. It would be 19,500 to 22,500 square feet bigger than the old one and anticipates sales of \$425,000 per week or \$22 million a year. If estimates hold true, El Cerrito will get about \$42,000 per year in increased

sales tax revenues from the site business. In addition, the city's Redevelopment Agency will receive a net increase of about \$46,000 per year in property taxes from the improved site. Because its facility would be in a redevelopment target area, Lucky Stores may seek future financial assistance from the Agency to offset the increase in property taxes. So far, they have not formally requested any such assistance. Also the staff report notes that Lucky Stores expects the city to buy and maintain the creek area after restoration and landscaping improvements. According to the report: "While no negotiations have yet occurred, this would cost the city both for the ongoing maintenance of the area and for the up-front purchase of the creek prop-

See STORE on page A10



The entourage of students and chaperons who made the trip to see Ashland's Shakespeare Festival up close and personal.

Ashland trip valuable for AHS acting students

To go or not to go was certainly not the question. Albany High School students who participated in this year's class production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, took a field trip to Oregon last month and saw some of the best in the business perform the same work at the renowned Ashland Shakespeare Festival. The four-day excursion gave 35 students a chance to see three plays at Ashland's Bowmer Theater, hear pre-play prologues from actors in the plays, and learn more about their craft at an acting workshop with Ashland performers.

While students often view such extended trips as less of a learning experience and more of a diversion from the school routine, that was not the case for the group that went to Ashland. "Most kids do school trips for the social stuff, but the best part of this trip was the plays," said student Jessica Yarris.

Seeing another cast perform the same play students had staged earlier also provided some insight. "It was nice to see *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a different interpretation than the way the AHS Theatre Ensemble performed it earlier in the year," said student Molly

Klein-McDowell.

The behind-the-scenes experiences likewise proved valuable. After a seven-hour bus trip (including going through a snowstorm over Mt. Ashland) the first day, April 2, students spent the next morning on a backstage tour of the Ashland theater led by actors and technicians. "The backstage tour offered an awesome glimpse of the not-always-so-glamorous field of tech and stage crew," said Alexis Kalman.

That afternoon students saw the Shakespeare play they all knew so well, followed by a Q & A session with eight of the actors. That evening they saw a staging of *Les Blancs*, a seldom-seen play by Raisin in the Sun author Lorraine Hansberry. The next day saw the acting workshop, where students learned how rigorous acting is and how much actors depend on one another. Afterward students were free to shop and tour Ashland. That night they saw a staging of the play *School for Scandal*. The students' teacher sponsor and chaperons, Laura Mori and Gloria Sims, noted the students' eagerness for theater experience, as well as the "intelligent questions and insightful observations" participants.

Measure A campaign

A West County campaign kickoff for Measure A, Contra Costa's proposed 1/8-cent sales tax to improve county library funding, is set for May 11 at 5 p.m. at the Hacienda restaurant at San Pablo and Macdonald. There will be refreshments and no-host cocktails. The requested donation is \$5 to help fund the Measure A effort.

Absentee voting

Absentee ballots for the June 2 Primary Election will be available to all Alameda County voters beginning Monday, May 4, at the Registrar of Voters office, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The application for an absentee ballot is located on the back cover of the Sample Ballot which will be mailed to all voters from now through May 15. Voters may also request an absentee ballot by mailing a postcard with name, residence address, mailing address and signature to the Registrar of Voters, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, 94612. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot by mail is Tuesday, May 26. Details: 272-6973.

Election officers needed

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters is currently recruiting citizens to serve as election officer for the Direct Primary Election to be held on June 2.

Election officers must be registered voters in Alameda County and available to work all day on June 2. Election workers earn between \$65 and \$94.50 for the day.

Bilingual individuals, especially those who speak Spanish, Cantonese or Mandarin are encouraged to apply. Details: 272-6973.

KARWC meeting

The Kensington Area Republican Women's Club will have its monthly meeting at the Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito on May 27.

There will be a discussion of the propositions and election.

Luncheon will be served at 12:30 following the social hour which begins at noon. Lunch is \$10 per person.

Call Dorothy Champian, 237-4252 to make reservations. Deadline is May 23.

Measure A endorsement

The El Cerrito Democratic Club has voted to endorse Measure A, which would enact a 1/8-cent sales tax in Contra Costa for library funding. The measure requires a 2/3 majority for approval.

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Kensington will go a spell without a gas station

By J.R. Deaton

KENSINGTON — You can get full service, self service, a smog check, new plugs, new tires, a tune-up or a brake job—but after next week you may have to wait a while.

The Kensington Chevron service station at Arlington and Amherst will close after May 15 for about 90 days for remodeling, new pumps and tanks. Owner Shar Ghazzagh says that when the station re-opens in August it will look about the same, but there will be significant changes. To meet new environmental regulations, the old single wall steel underground gas tanks now used will be replaced by new doublewalled fiberglass ones. Station manager Mike Lasher pointed out that the new tanks will be more "seismically secure" and added "fiberglass doesn't rust." There will also be new pumps installed that will accept payment cards directly at the pump. "People will be able to pump gas easily and there won't be much hassle," Ghazzagh explained. The office area will change a little, but not much. Ghazzagh said people like the look of the station, especially the "old fashion" canopy over the outside pumps. "People really like it and we plan to keep it that way," she said and noted that the canopy matches the one down the street at the police station.

Manager Lasher says the new pumps and tanks will be "high tech" but the look and feel of the station will be the same. Lasher is a big man who obviously likes his job. He jokes with the customers



The Kensington station has a regular clientele who appreciate the 1950s-style service and don't mind paying for it. But the regulars will have to make due elsewhere for three months.

while making service appointments and takes time to razz the mailman on his rounds. "This is a special place" he says of the station and it seems many of the customers agree.

Self-service for regular unleaded is currently posted at a thrifty \$1.29.9, but you can get full-service regular for \$1.87.9. Some of the older people in the area come to the station for its full-service island.

"We're going to miss this station very much" said 87-year-old George Gates. "The personal service is incredible," Gates

added: "There are very few full-service stations left." Gates lives in El Cerrito (since 1939) and drives to the Kensington Chevron for gas and to have his tire pressure checked and windshield washed. "I can come here to get my oil changed and you can't do that at most stations," he said. Gates pointed to 12-year employee Gigi Buenaflor who was adding transmission fluid to Gates' car and said: "He knows me — he calls me by my name and that is very important."

Benny Reynolds, another longtime customer, said he'll miss

the station while it's closed. "They give full service and that's what counts," he said. Reynolds is in his 80s and said it's harder to get around than it used to be. "This is a good business and they treat you right," he added.

Owner Ghazzagh said when the station reopens after the remodeling there will still be a full-service island, but perhaps with limited hours. The station will still offer full maintenance and repair services in its service bays. And Gigi and the others will still call you by name and clean your windshield.

Newsline

Diversity and the role of cities

El Cerrito-based Celebrating Culture and Community will present a public panel on May 16, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. entitled "Diversity and the Role of Cities" focusing on Hercules, Pinole and Rodeo. The discussion will focus on "how diverse we really are" and will take place at the Pinole Public Library, 2935 Pinole Valley Road across from Pinole Valley High School.

The panelists are Pinole Vice-Mayor Maria Alegria, Rodeo MAC Committeeman Jim Bessolo, Hercules Vice-Mayor Andy Paras, and Prof. Alex Saragosa of UC-Berkeley along with prominent representatives from the African American, Japanese American, and Persian communities and a youth representative. Dr. Eve A. Ma, Esq., will act as moderator. The public is invited to bring its concerns and questions.

Warning on limo scams

The California Public Utilities Commission is warning the public to beware of limousine rental scams as high school proms approach.

The commission has received reports of unlicensed limousine drivers, services that demanded money up front then didn't arrive, drivers who stranded passengers by raising the price during the return trip, limousines with bad brakes and chauffeurs who drove stolen limousines.

* The commission offers these tips to avoid getting scammed:

— Use the Yellow Pages. Only licensed limousine firms can advertise.

— Ask other people for recommended services.

— Call 1-800-877-8867 and ask the commission about the company.

— Get written price quotes and contracts. Commission staff members can more easily have the deposit returned with written agreements.

To file a complaint with the commission about a company, call 1-800-894-9444.

Berkeley Clinic Auxiliary names new officers

Members of the Berkeley Clinic Auxiliary honored their new officers at its annual luncheon. The luncheon took place recently at the Bellevue Club in Oakland. Officers for the new year are: Katherine Foley, president; Rosslyn Alston, first vice president; Jean Donald, second vice president for special projects; Virginia Tibbals, treasurer; Mildred Fay, recording secretary; Betty Altfillisch, corresponding secretary; Kay Davis and Jackie Sheehy, Turnabout Shop co-chairmen; and Margie Fay, parliamentarian.

A nonprofit organization made up of volunteers, the Berkeley Clinic Auxiliary was founded in 1917, and for 80 years its members have worked to raise funds for several diverse health care causes. In 1954, the Auxiliary opened a thrift shop in El Cerrito, the "Turnabout Shop" which was a success from the beginning.

The volunteers came up with the unique idea of helping local children with severe orthodontic problems. At the present time, they are helping about 23 patients.

Funds for all of these activities are raised by operating the Turnabout Shop, located at 10052 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. All staff time and merchandise are donated. The thrift shop is open daily except Wednesdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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■ Police Reports

Auto burglaries net \$1.50

By William-Arthur Haynes

EL CERRITO — Sometime between 4:38 a.m. and 4:48 a.m. on April 25 an unknown suspect entered an '87 Subaru station wagon parked on the 600 block of Lexington Ave. through an unlocked door. The suspect rifled through the vehicle but took nothing. However, a '95 Pontiac Grand Am parked in front of the same residence was entered again through an unlocked door and removed loose change in the amount of \$1.50. When the victim interrupted the assailant he fled.

• On April 25 an unknown suspect broke the window to the vacant San Pablo Ave. Travelini's Furniture store by unknown means. The damage was estimated at \$650.

• At around 2:56 a.m. on April 26 an unknown suspect beat the hinges off a security door of the Pro Shop at the Mira Vista Country Club. The suspect removed the door causing the alarm to sound. The damage was estimated at \$250.

• Sometime between 8 p.m. on April 24 and 7:30 a.m. on April 25 an unknown suspect smashed the window to a '79 Ford Fairmont parked on the 1200 block of Liberty St.

• Sometime between 5 p.m. on April 24 and 4:30 on April 25 an 83-year-old woman passed away in her sleep in her home on the 6800 block of Cutting Blvd.

• On the afternoon of April 27 a woman living on the 7000 block of Manila Ave. advised police that someone was trying to kill her. The woman had armed herself with a knife. She was taken to County Hospital in Martinez for a psychiatric evaluation.

• Sometime between April 13 and April 26 an unknown suspect entered an '87 Honda CRX by unknown means and attempted to remove the vehicles in-dash stereo. The assailant was unsuccessful but did manage to steal the rear speakers.

• On April 28 during a booking search on a man arrested for warrants police found him in possession of methamphetamines.

• Sometime during the early morning on April 28 an unknown suspect smashed the right-side window of an '84 VW Rabbit parked on the 800 block of Lexington Ave. The assailant removed the vehicles in-dash stereo, rear speakers and a jacket from the rear seat.

• On April 28 at around 8:20 a.m.

a man attempts to leave a San Pablo Ave Shell service station while the gas nozzle is still in his tank causing minor damage. An employee stopped the man and asked him to return. The two engaged in a verbal altercation whereupon the man drove off. The employee was able to get the drivers license plate number. Damage to the gas hose was estimated at \$350.

• On April 27 a woman lost her purse while shopping at the San Pablo Ave. Target.

• On April 26 at about 8:56 p.m. a man was arrested on San Pablo Ave. between Waldo and Moeser streets for operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

• At about 11:10 p.m. on April 28 a woman advised an acquaintance that if they couldn't have an intimate relationship together life was not worth living. The woman told the man she had taken 15 pills of an anti-depressant called Clonazepam. The woman had a history of manic depression.

• On April 28 at around 10 p.m. a man knocked on the door of a residence on the 3300 block of Belmont Ave. and demanded to see a woman he believed was being held hostage as a sex slave. The man challenged the resident to a fight then left and began yelling at houses in the area. He was later found wandering the street nearby.

• On April 27 at around 6:30 p.m. someone entered an '88 VW Jetta parked on the 1400 block of Scott St. and removed the vehicle's stereo.

• On April 24 a man shopping at the San Pablo Ave. Lucky forgot

See EL CERRITO, page A11

Thief flies coop with birds

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — On the night of May 1 officers observed a white '81 Chevrolet station wagon on the 600 block of Cleveland that had two different license plates. Officers stopped the car which turned out to have been stolen from San Rafael. The driver, a 26-year-old San Pablo man, was arrested, cited and transported to the Berkeley jail. The San Rafael police department was notified. A check of the passenger in the car was clear and he was allowed to depart.

• At about 1 p.m. on April 26 officers intervened when they observed a group of juveniles on the 1300 block of Solano Avenue who were fighting. The three boys were from Oakland. Two of them, ages 14 and 17, were directly involved in the fight and were arrested. The third boy, age 15, was not directly involved and was released.

• On the afternoon of April 27 officers stopped a 32-year-old man on San Pablo Avenue for erratic driving. He was found to have a warrant from Oakland in the amount of \$329. He was arrested and cited with a Notice to Appear.

• At about 1:30 a.m. on April 28 officers contacted a man near Marin and San Pablo Avenues who was observed to be staggering. The 24-year-old Albany man was found to be intoxicated and arrested. He was cited and released when sober.

• On the morning of April 28 a resident on the 700 block of Calhoun Street reported that during the night thieves had broken into her gold '94 Mazda Protege while it was parked in the parking garage.

• Just after midnight on April 29 officers stopped a burgundy '86 Honda Civic for erratic driving. The driver, a 21-year-old El Cerrito man was found to have an outstanding Emeryville warrant in the amount of \$244 for traffic violations. He was arrested, cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

• On the morning of April 29 an employee at St. Mary's High School reported that during the night thieves tore up the field and stole various items. There were no witnesses.

• On the evening of April 29 a resident on the 700 block of Talbot Avenue reported that sometime during the day thieves broke into her house through a kitchen window and stole her birds from their cages. There were no witnesses.

• Just after midnight on April 30 officers were flagged down by a man who was wandering barefoot at the end of Eastshore Highway. The man was found to be very intoxicated. He was arrested and cited to be released when sober.

• On the morning of April 30 a man reported that while visiting on the 500 block of Pierce Street his blue '91 Buick was broken into

while it was parked in a dirt lot. There were no witnesses.

• At about 11:30 a.m. on April 30 a resident on the 400 block of Evelyn Avenue reported that vandals had broken into his Ford that was parked on the street. He told officers that he had pictures of the juveniles who were responsible.

• At about 11:30 p.m. on April 30 officers contacted a 28 year old Berkeley woman who was observed sleeping on a bench near Polk and Buchanan Streets. She had been drinking but was not very intoxicated. She was found to have a warrant from Berkeley in the amount of \$268 and was arrested, cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

• On the evening of May 1 a resident on the 1000 block of Santa Fe Avenue reported that thieves broke into his house through a front window and stole various items. There were no witnesses.

During the week of April 25 officers fingerprinted seven people at their request, towed two cars, responded to 10 false alarms, attended to nine lost or deceased animals, assisted three people who were locked out of their house or car and responded to one report of barking dogs. Officers stopped 111 vehicles issuing 52 warnings and 59 citations. In the domestic arena officers intervened in three domestic disputes, one stand-by, 17 civil disturbances and 61 civil assists. Firefighter/paramedics responded to two fire calls and 12 medical emergencies.



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Ed. Fund will honor six teachers May 15

Six teachers in the West Contra Costa Unified School District will receive this year's Teaching Excellence Awards, sponsored by The Ed. Fund. The award winners represent a diverse array of subjects, specialties, interests and personalities, but all share a love of teaching and a genuine concern for the young people they educate. The honorees, Debbie Grisso, Susan Wehrle, Olivia Trevino James Hughes, Lana Martarella, and James Prior, will be recognized Friday, May 15 at The Ed. Fund's Tenth Annual Teaching Excellence Awards Banquet at the Richmond Convention Center.

More than 500 people attended The Ed. Fund's Teaching Excellence Awards Banquet last year, including parents, teachers, administrators, politicians and community and business leaders. The evening provides an inspiring opportunity to recognize and thank some of the exemplary individuals who make education meaningful and enjoyable in their community.

• **Debbie Grisso**, first grade teacher at Olinda Elementary School, has been called one of the school's most innovative teachers. Her child-centered approach to teaching is evident in her lessons and in her interactions with her young pupils. An art lover, Grisso has found an extraordinary number of ways to incorporate hands-on artwork by her students and art appreciation into her lessons. Her dedication to her profession has extended to her fellow teachers, whom she trains and often mentors.

• **Susan Wehrle**, an Art Teacher at Portola Middle School, is devoted to creating opportunities for her students to enjoy their personal creative processes and feel proud of their artistic accomplishments. Chair of the District's Art Department for the past six years, Wehrle is a tireless worker on behalf of arts education in the schools. For many years she has organized the District's Student Art Show, ensuring that the diversity and high quality of the student's artistic achievements are showcased to the public.

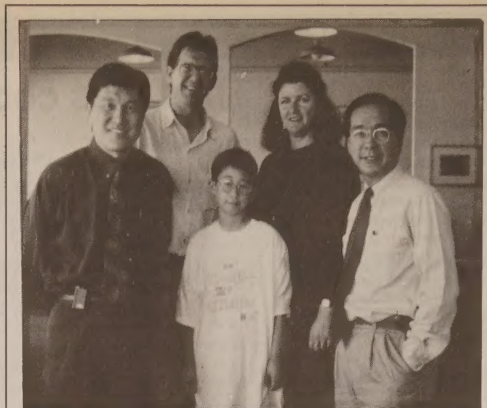
• **Olivia Trevino**, a counselor at Adams Middle School, takes her responsibility for her student's welfare very seriously. Working with students from a wide range of backgrounds at a difficult stage in their

growth, she models appropriate behavior through her firm and consistent approach to the middle school students. In addition, Ms. Trevino currently oversees the school's growing English as a Second Language/Sheltered Learning Department.

• **James Prior**, an outstanding instructor at Pinole Valley High School, teaches computer science, geometry, and algebra. He teaches all subjects with uncommon enthusiasm, and often is called upon to teach Advanced and Advanced Placement courses. His dedication to helping students and the school extends to his off-hours as well. He often troubleshoots computer problems throughout the school, and he spent last summer building computers for the school's Computer Lab. In addition, he voluntarily teaches an after-school class in computer assembly that is enjoyed by both students and other teachers.

• **Lana Martarella**, a School to Career instructor at Richmond High School, has done an outstanding job of ensuring that all of her ninth grade students have opportunities to learn about a variety of career choices. She has formed community partnerships with Kaiser Permanente, Chevron, the City of Richmond Fire and Police Departments, the Richmond Health Clinic and others to expose her students to career opportunities within their community. Martarella is involved in curriculum development related to career education and academic integration, and is currently the Lead Teacher for the Health and Human Services Partnership Academy.

• **James Hughes**, third grade teacher at Lake Elementary School, emphasizes mutual and self-respect among his pupils to ensure that all are engaged in the learning process. He begins and ends each day in his classroom with a ritual honoring each student's individuality and connectedness to each other. His room is adorned with his students' art and written work. Through writing activities focused on the family, he has encouraged parent participation in the classroom. As a published author of adult and children's fiction, he encourages his students to create their own publications. This year his class produced its own magazine featuring student poetry,



Cornell student Matthew Lee, center, is the winner of this year's Silly Olympics T-shirt design contest, surrounded by design judges Herman Sun, Todd Hodson, Denyse Fenelon Biagi and Nick Tang.

Kids, parents: Come to Cornell School and get silly Saturday

ALBANY — There will be a lot of silliness at Cornell School, 920 Talbot Ave., this Saturday with the return of the school's annual "Silly Olympics" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For a students' entry fee of \$10 to cover all events or \$1 for any single event participants can negotiate The Maze or Obstacle Course, a Backward Basketball Toss, The Limbo (limber that back up), Make a Stone-Faced Kid Laugh in a Minute, or a half-dozen other equally silly but fun competitions. While the event is an important Cornell PTA fund-raiser for the school, fun is truly the name of the game on Saturday. There will also be face painting, a silly parade and food for when the silly antics finally make you hungry.

There will also be a raffle with a Grand Prize of two tickets to Disneyland and \$200.

fiction, non-fiction, letters describing winter holiday traditions, jokes, puzzles and artwork.

These six teachers all bring tremendous commitment to their work, embodying the noblest virtues of today's educators. Their dedication and concern for their students, their schools and the District truly make them outstanding in their field. Each teacher will receive a monetary award of \$500 at this year's Teaching Excellence Awards Banquet. The awards are sponsored by Berlex Biosciences, Mechanics Bank, Chevron, PG&E, Zeneca and the Hilltop Shopping Center. Also

recognized at the Banquet are citizens and businesses in the community who have made extraordinary contributions to local education.

The event also showcases the many programs sponsored by The Ed. Fund, a non-profit dedicated to enhancing and enriching education at schools throughout the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Now in its 15th year, The Ed. Fund's programs have reached more than 150,000 of this District's students with projects in reading, writing, math, science and the performing and fine arts.

Details or tickets: 233-1464.

Albany PTA Council News

• **Open House** for Cornell and Marin is tonight from 7 to 8 p.m. Also at Marin school, math/science projects are on display in the multi-use room and library.

• **Open House** for Vista and Vista-MacGregoris Thursday, May 14 from 7 to 8 p.m.

• **AUSD Summer school** dates are Monday, June 22 to Friday, July 17. The location is Marin school for students K-4 and AMS for 5th grade and above. Applications will be sent home with students in early May.

PTA Meetings

• **Marin PTA** meets Thursday, May 14 at 7 p.m. in the library.

• **Cornell PTA** meets Thursday, May 28 at 7 p.m. in the multi-use room.

School Board Meetings

• **Board of Education** meets on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Cornell multi-use room.

Events/fund raisers

• **Silly Olympics** are coming to Cornell School on Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For students there is an entry fee of \$10 to cover all events or \$1 for any single event. Raffle prizes include a Grand Prize of two tickets to Disneyland and \$200.

• **On Sunday, May 17 at 2 p.m.** an benefit outdoor concert of **Music and Dance** from Bali, featuring Gamelan Sekar Java, will be performed for children and their families at Marin School.

Bring blankets, pillows, lawn chairs and sun screen for your seating comfort. Tickets are \$10-adults, \$5-children, free-5 and under. Proceeds go to the Marin School Arts Fund.

• The first annual "Groove Fest" will be held at the Albany High School Little Theater May 15 and 16. Featuring the exciting R & B Band Rhythm Bound in their last scheduled appearance this year, and the award winning AHS Jazz Band, The Groove Fest is a benefit to replace used and worn instruments at Albany High. Both bands will be performing new material at all three shows. The first day of the Groove Fest is Friday May 15, at 8 p.m. in the AHS Little Theater. Music. And music enthusiasts will have two opportunities to hear and support these talented young musicians Saturday, the first show beginning at 4:30 p.m., the second at 8 p.m.. All three performances will also feature the newly-formed jazz quintet, "District 5." Tickets: \$4 for students and \$6 for adults. Details: 559-6550, ext. 4748.

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Schools chief backs BART student discount proposal

Alameda County Superintendent of Schools Cheryl Hightower announced her full support of an initiative that could discount BART tickets by 25 percent for local high school students.

The BART board of directors is scheduled to vote tomorrow on establishing a six-month pilot program providing the discount to high school students riding BART to and from school.

Hightower endorsed the program

saying it would help financially disadvantaged students pursue their goals.

"It is critical that our community supports our students as they pursue their educational and career goals," she said. If the board votes to accept the BART Planning Department recommendation, students 13 to 18-years-old could buy the discounted weekday tickets at school. The program would run for six months with a cap of 3,000

tickets a month, after six months BART would conduct a survey to determine if student ridership increased with the discounted tickets.

CalTrain, Alameda County Transit and the San Francisco Municipal Railway offer discount rates to teen student riders, already.

Hightower was appointed to supervisor earlier this year to complete the remaining term of her predecessor, who retired. She will run for a full term to the post.

New shuttle makes Del Norte-Hilltop commute runs

The Hilltop Express Shuttle has started operation with its state-of-the-art, new alternative clean-fuel propane engine vehicles.

During peak commute hours, the service runs from the Del Norte BART station (temporarily while the transit facility at the Richmond

BART station is being refurbished) to the Richmond Parkway Transit Center and around various stops in the Hilltop region offering shoppers, employers, and residents, local service in the area as well as express bus service to BART.

The shuttle is funded with grants

from the Transportation Fund for Clean Air, Contra Costa County's Measure C, and private sponsorship, and cosponsored by the City of Richmond, WestCAT, and the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee. Service was inaugurated March 31.

EC Garden Club names new officers

El Cerrito Garden Club officers for the 1998-99 year were elected at the April 9 meeting of the club. They are: Barbara Post, President; Janet Ruyle, First Vice President; Dan Ushimoto and Elsie Uchimoto, Second Vice Presidents; Virginia Summerer, Recording Secretary; Dee Prun, Corresponding Secretary; Audrea Miller, Treasurer; Ann West, Historian; and Doreen Spellman, Parliamentarian.

The new officers will be installed on June 11, following the club's spring luncheon at H's Lordships Restaurant in Berkeley.

Science and fun for kids

Junior scientists age 2 to 7 can experience the joy of discovery at Kensington Nursery School's (52 Arlington Ave.) 8th annual Science Fair on Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Explore over 15 "hands-on" discovery stations, and special attractions Space World and Astro Jump. Admission is \$5 for children, accompanying adults are free.



Winner's Circle proposal

On Saturday, April 25, there were more than two winners of the 7th race at Golden Gate Fields. As Pursue the Queen took her position in the Winner's Circle so did Randy Eickhoff. Dropping to one knee, Randy proposed to his queen, Lela Tong, while family and friends watched. "The jeweler finished the ring just in time to deliver it to the race track so Randy could surprise Lela," says Randy's mother Judy Santos of Hayward. According to Santos, the family puts together a group of friends every year for a fun day at the races. "It just seemed like the perfect time to give the ring to Lela. We knew she wouldn't be expecting it at the race track," laughs Santos. The happy couple plans an October wedding on the Big Island in Hawaii.

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EVENTS

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Mustang Car Show - June 14
Music in the Courtyard - Sundays

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All the way from Istanbul, instructor finds home at EC Swim Center

Angela Saridis teaches water aerobics at the El Cerrito Community Pool.

Which wouldn't be much of a story if you didn't know the story of Angela Saridis.

You see, when Angela started teaching she had learned water aerobics from the best. She had been taking classes from Renee Hoyer Nielson, who is now her supervisor at the Community Pool. And it was Renee who talked her into teaching the classes.

But Angela Saridis didn't know how to swim. Well, she could swim, the way you do when you learn by swimming in the ocean. Her ocean was the waters around Istanbul, when she was a child. But she had never taken any lessons, and here she was, teaching water aerobics without the detailed knowledge of one who had learned to swim from an expert.

So she learned to swim, after she had been teaching water aerobics for some time so successfully that her classes were always full, and they had to add more.

I guess that is the end of the story: she did take swimming lessons and learned very well. But the end of the story isn't the interesting part. The rest is.

We will start at the beginning. Angela was born in Istanbul, Turkey, of Greek parents. Her life, she says, was very simple, and very beautiful. Her family, she says, were poor. She, her mother, father and brother lived in a small house and shared a bedroom. Eventually they did add on another bedroom.

She lived a very protected life. She went to school, and she learned to sew. Her parents wanted her to marry, but from the time she was a little girl she always wanted to go to the United States So she sewed and

she waited. And when she was 17 or 18, Harry Saridis returned from America to Istanbul to find himself a wife.

Harry was 24 and had made his home in America. But when he knew it was time to marry, he returned to Turkey and did it in the manner of his people. His mother came to see her mother. When Angela heard he was from America she decided, "I am going to marry that guy. I am going to America."

They went to Greece to get married and stayed with her father while they waited for her papers. When the papers came they left Greece and came to what was her promised land — America. They came to Berkeley and have been happily married for 34 years. Son Peter and daughters Joyce and Dina are the happy result.

Angela tells of being so lonely when they settled in their first apartment on McGee Street in Berkeley. She started sewing for people, to help out her husband, and that helped her, also. Then came her first baby, and everything was up from there on. She says she was overwhelmed at first by all that was happening to her: a new marriage, a new country and a new language. The baby came very soon after they arrived, and she couldn't leave him and go to school, at first. She started to learn English from her new friends and then, finally, was able to attend Albany Adult School. But for the most part, she says, she learned from her friends and her own children when they started school.

When the children were ready to go to school they sent them to a Catholic school, although that was not their religion. Angela, herself, has been working for a preschool in Kensington, for some time. When

Community Folk

By Clara Rae Genser



she started teaching water aerobics she was able to arrange her hours so that she could do both.

Not that she was originally enthusiastic about the aerobics instruction. When she met Renee, Renee told her the center was going to have a new program of water aerobics, asking, "Would you like to come join me?" Angela hesitated. She had little confidence in herself, and she shrank from the idea of taking showers in the dressing room. But she did it. She took the class and loved it, and stayed with it for nine years.

When Renee asked her if she would like to be the instructor for the class, she jumped at it. She went with Renee to take a certification class in water aerobics instruction. "We needed someone who was dedicated," said Renee who was taking part in the interview, "And I knew Angela was the one."

Angela started teaching last year. It was a challenge, she says, but it has been wonderfully successful. People love to come to her classes (several have been added), and she has people of all ages, usually over 18 to 80. And that makes it very interesting.

Angela says she changes the aerobics and changes the music. They work with Latin, Greek and all kinds of music. When she introduces a new exercise she asks them, "how do you feel with this exercise?" And almost always they love it. She has nine classes a week now, and she loves it. Sometimes her students say "Angela, you don't have to be in the water with us," but

she always is. She is part of the class.

She goes to training classes to keep up to date. Such training classes are held in Santa Rosa and other places, and she finds them very useful, although sometimes she finds she knows more than the people who are teaching.

Angela's classes have been consistently large. People can come in no matter what shape they are in, and can work as hard as they want to. She has classes Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., has a one-hour noon class, and even has evening classes on Tuesday and Thursday. Everyone there is very nice, Angela says. Children and adults start out timidly and are suddenly swimming. And she adds, "It is very exciting for me."

"I will always be grateful to Renee for the rest of my life," Angela says. "She was the person who motivated me and gave me confidence and courage."

And, oh yes, when she did learn to swim her teacher was Renee's fiancé.

Thank you, Margaret May, for suggesting Angela to me. I so enjoyed chatting with her, and Renee's presence was an added bonus.

And, as always, I urge all of you to give me your input: Interesting people, events, organizations, travel and all that good stuff. Please write to me at 555 Pierce St., #443, Albany, Ca 94706 or call 525-4585. My email is crgenser@aol.com.



Celebrating 50 years

Bernard and Joan Laufenberg of Albany will celebrate 50 years of marriage on May 22 at the Claremont Resort and Spa at a dinner with their immediate family. They will revisit the Claremont Hotel where their wedding reception was held back in 1948. Barney and Joan have lived in Albany for over 40 years. Barney Laufenberg, now retired, owned and operated a drilling contracting business in Berkeley for 30 years. Joan (Bucher) Laufenberg now retired, worked for 14 years with the Albany Unified School District as a ESL Aid at Albany Middle School and enjoyed working with and having a positive influence on many international students, who continue to stop her on the streets of Albany to say hello and thank you. Barney and Joan currently enjoy working with the St. Vincent De Paul Society at St. Jerome's Church and traveling to their summer cabin in Lake County. Other anniversary plans include a first-time Alaskan Cruise. Barney and Joan have six children and also enjoy spending time with their nine grandchildren.

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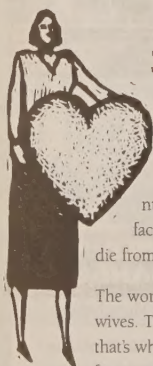
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Heart attacks alone kill approximately 247,000 women every year. While all types of cancer kill 220,000 women every year, more than twice that number will die from all forms of cardiovascular disease. In fact, more women than men who develop heart disease, will die from cardiovascular disease.

The women behind these numbers are our mothers, our sisters, our wives. They are the people we work with and our best friends. And that's why Sutter Health is proud to be a co-sponsor of California's first annual Women's Health Day, May 7. This annual event will focus attention on women's health issues, education and the value of early detection of women's diseases, such as breast cancer and heart disease.

To commemorate this day and as a community service, Alta Bates Medical Center, a Sutter Health Affiliate, is providing you with *Heart Health: Questions A Woman Should Discuss With Her Doctor*. This brief checklist is meant to get you thinking about the unthinkable — your risk for heart disease.

Over 26 million women are living today with some form of cardiovascular disease, including heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke. Of these more than 50% are under the age 65.

We at Alta Bates and Sutter Health encourage all women to review this checklist, and to talk with their doctor about their individual risk factors and what they can do about them. And to husbands, partners and children — we hope you share this checklist with someone you love.

For additional copies of the *Heart Health: Questions A Woman Should Discuss With Her Doctor* checklist and information on "Women and Heart Health" call:

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Heart Health:

Questions A Woman Should Discuss With Her Doctor.*

☐ Is my family history important?

(Family history of high blood pressure, stroke or heart disease is a major risk factor for heart disease.)

☐ How can I stop smoking?

(Women who smoke are nearly 4 times more likely to have a heart attack than women who don't smoke.)

☐ What is my blood pressure?

(Women with high blood pressure, consistently over 140/90 at rest, are 4 times more likely to develop cardiovascular disease.)

☐ What are my cholesterol levels?

(High cholesterol in women is linked to a higher incidence of atherosclerosis.)

☐ Do I have any evidence of diabetes?

(Women with diabetes have double the chance of developing heart disease.)

☐ Should I consider Estrogen Replacement Therapy?

(For post menopausal women only — talk with your doctor.)

☐ What tests should I have if I am having pain?

(If you are having pain that could be associated with your heart, stress exercise tests should be done to determine the cause of the pain.)

☐ Should I see a nutritionist for weight loss, low salt, low fat or low cholesterol diets?

(Women more than 30% overweight are more likely to develop cardiovascular diseases.)

☐ What about drinking alcohol?

(Women who don't consume alcohol were found to have less risk of heart disease than women who drink alcohol.)

☐ How do I start an exercise program?

(At least 25 minutes of continuous exercise, 3 to 4 times a week is recommended.)

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El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce

Taco Bell opens here, joins Chamber

The newest, most modern Taco Bell—a fast food establishment with high-class restaurant atmosphere—is now open in El Cerrito. The facility, which features a non-additional tower design is located at 1965 San Pablo Ave. Owned by Bil Basra of Basra Enterprises, the new Taco Bell is latest the firm to join the Chamber Of Commerce. According to general manager Ajaz Moosa, 39, the El Cerrito Taco Bell will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week—except Thanksgiving and Christmas. He added that staff of 46 friendly people will provide “top quality food at great prices in a pleasant atmosphere.” Moosa is so sure of the quality of Taco Bell’s food that he proudly proclaims: “If you don’t like what you eat, we’ll eat it—and not charge you.” The difference between this eatery and the usual fast-food establishments is readily apparent even from the outside. There are plenty of brightly lit windows, fully landscaped grounds, plenty of off-street parking, convenient drive-through facilities and an imposing tower sign—under which there will soon be benches for customers who prefer to eat out of doors.

The facility’s neat, well-lit tile interior features seating for 56 people. According to Moosa, while the El Cerrito Taco Bell is now open, the official grand opening celebration will not take place until later in May. At that time, he said, the firm will celebrate the occasion by handing out special savings coupons. Meanwhile, the new store is busy offering its own special brand of treats to hungry local residents. One of the newest products being chicken, steak or beef Gordita—flatbread stuffed with meat, lettuce and three kinds of cheese—for as low as 99-cents each. Also featured are 10 different types of Value Meal combinations selling for as low as \$2.99. Saying he was “delighted to be in a clean, quiet city like El Cerrito, where everyone is so friendly,” Moosa points out that opening new Taco Bell locations is nothing new for him. Starting as a crew member in Tracy eight years ago, he was made a general manager three years later and, since that time, has opened new Taco Bells in San Mateo, Fremont and Livermore before coming here. “I just love opening stores,” he

said. **Three more new members** In addition to Taco Bell, the El Cerrito Chamber Of Commerce is happy to welcome three more new members—Miniature Needleworks, John Zakaria & Associates and Pre-Paid Legal, Inc. Offering a unique service, Linda Blum’s Miniature Needleworks which is located at 2606 Tassajara Ave. produces miniature needlepoint rugs, accessories and other items for doll houses. Orders may be placed by telephoning (510) 234-0987. Computer network design and services are provided by John Zakaria & Associates of 235 Behrens St. The firm can be contacted at 528-8625. Heading Pre-Paid Legal, Inc. of 1244 Richmond St. is legal services broker Joan Brannigan. For details on how to obtain a pre-paid plan that provides affordable access to legal services for personal or business purposes call 236-3821. The Chamber would also like to thank Reem Pharmacy, Building Materials Unlimited Co. and Ibeex for showing their support by reinvesting in this organization. **Meeting date shifted** Due to the Monday Memorial Day

holiday, the chamber’s regular monthly business luncheon has been changed to Tuesday, May 26. Reservations for the noon event, which will be held at Little Ange’s Restaurant and Tavern at 6115 Potrero Ave., must be made on or before May 22 by calling the Chamber office at (510) 233-7040. Featured speaker at this session will be El Cerrito head librarian Janet Hildebrand, who will talk on behalf of Measure A on the June ballot. Measure A, which has already been endorsed by the City Council, calls for a modest increase in the sales tax to raise funds for improved library services. **Chamber backs Measure E** Measure E on the June 2 ballot, which calls for a \$40 million bond issue to finance construction of a middle school in central Richmond and major capital improvements to schools throughout the West Contra Costa Unified School District, was endorsed last month by the El Cerrito Chamber. The action at the April business meeting after a talk by local resident Glen Price. Price, a member of the district School Board, told the business group the bond money is needed because: • Some 75 percent of the district’s



A warm welcome to the community is offered to Taco Bell by Chamber Of Commerce officials. Pictured, from left to right, are: Rafael Martinez, Taco Bell Area Market Manager, Chamber President Bill Kerber; Ajaz Moosa, General Manager of the local restaurant; and Chamber Manager Sewall Glinertnick.

schools are over 40 years old. • Some have leaky roofs and others have experienced mechanical system failures. • The infrastructure is inadequate to accommodate modern technology, including computers. • Some schools have unsafe playgrounds. • Richmond, the largest city in the district, has no middle school, and there is a need for class size reduction.

time member of the El Cerrito Chamber Of Commerce, will hold an Open House from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 30, to show off their newly remodeled and fully modernized chiropractic facility in the old James Realty building at 10468 San Pablo Avenue. Guests at the Open House will be treated to hors d’oeuvres and refreshments, taken on a tour of the facilities and given complimentary spinal screening.

Price told Chamber members the General Fund cannot support the major capital improvements that are needed, adding that General Obligation Bonds are the district’s only viable alternative for funding the improvements.

After practicing in an office at Peppermint Tree Plaza for 15 years, Drs. Carol and Joseph Ball recently relocated to new and larger quarters to better serve their patients in this community.

Mixer set for May 28 Members and guests of the El Cerrito Chamber will celebrate Cinco de Mayo at a special mixer on Thursday, May 28. Sponsored by both El Cerrito’s Mechanics Bank branches, the social event will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the bank’s El Cerrito Plaza office.

They announced that the May Open House would also give the community an opportunity to meet Dr. Stasi J. Bara, D.C., who recently joined their expanded practice.

Highlighting this event will be a 6:30 p.m. Pinata-Breaking Contest between teams from Mechanics Bank, the City of El Cerrito and the Chamber board.

Businesses asked to help Local businesspeople are being asked to help send El Cerrito’s girl’s basketball team to their first-ever National Basketball Tournament in San Diego. Donations to help fund trip expenses can be sent to Special Services Supervisor Renee M. Hoyer-Nielsen or Sports Coordinator Samantha Keiman at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 94530.


Chamber Art Award Area artist Don Falconer walked off with the \$50 Chamber award for his watercolor titled “Budapest Market” at the El Cerrito Art Association’s annual show late last month.

Tickets still available Time is short and space is limited—but a few tickets are still available for the El Cerrito Chamber Day At The Races on Wednesday, May 20. Tickets for the event at nearby Golden Gate Fields are \$35 per person—which covers valet parking, admission to the Turf Club, and a gourmet luncheon in the VIP Directors Room.

In a note received after the show, Art Association treasurer Eileen Hammons praised the Chamber for being “a true supporter of arts in the city of El Cerrito.”

Tickets may be reserved by calling 233-7040.


Open house set Ball Chiropractic Center, a long-



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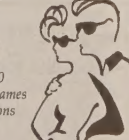
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Store

Continued from page 3

erty." In answer to a question by William Commerford, RAC's chairperson, Qualls pointed out that Lucky would pay the costs of building the park, but would not be responsible for maintaining it. Qualls affirmed that the city would assume liability for the park as well. "The city would have the liability for it and they would have the maintenance for it," Commerford questioned Qualls, before adding "even though they can barely maintain the parks they have now." In a talk after the meeting, Commerford said he didn't think the city could afford this new park.

Also speaking after the meeting, RAC member Ted Gowdy said he isn't "anti-creek" but that he thinks

the city needs to do a cost-benefit analysis to see how much saving the creek would cost and then decide if it's worth it. He wondered how much the city would lose in sales tax revenue by having a smaller store on the site rather than the prototypical 65,000-square-foot Lucky store. "What are we giving up to have a creek?" Gowdy asked.

RAC vice chair Lauren Volpini said that when it came to new stores, many developers have an "it's big or it's nothing" attitude. "What will happen if the project doesn't go through?" she asked Qualls. She also voiced safety concerns, saying the Macdonald/Key intersection already needs a stop light and that increased customer traffic will just make things worse. "It's an accident waiting to happen," she said. In a later interview,

Volpini said she wants a new Lucky store but she wants to save Baxter Creek as well. "Developing Lucky's and saving the creek is not mutually exclusive," she said. "You can't put a dollar value on the creek and open space," she said, adding that people will have to work together and compromise on the site plan.

At the meeting, Volpini, who lives in north El Cerrito, also said there is a lot of support in the area for a new larger store and people are excited about the prospect of a "clean, new well-lit" store.

RAC member John Baker wondered if an innovative design such as the Montclair Lucky's could be used in El Cerrito.

RAC member Michael Gonzalez probably spoke for most people when he said: "I'm really interested in seeing what we're going to get."

Creek

Continued from page 2 reticent to criticize our efforts. We hope that the following answers to the questions he posed will put the creek/ditch argument to rest where it belongs:

- Old maps vary in detail and in how they are interpreted. Creek restoration experts have interpreted the same 1894 and 1899 maps that Mr. Amberg referred to in his article and found a historical creek running in three branches from the hills to the bay. The creek flows rapidly down the steep East Bay hills and meanders more slowly when it reaches the flatter terrain south of Lucky Market.

- The branch south of Lucky has been classified by creek restoration expert Ann Riley as an

E-6 type stream under the Rosgen Stream Classification System. According to Ms. Riley, who has just published a book on urban creek restoration and has a Ph.D. in hydrology from UC Berkeley,

same people who spoke up for the creek at Redevelopment Agency meetings in 1993. At that time, we referred to it as "Canyon Creek" to indicate that it flowed through Canyon Trail Park. The

Frankly, we don't care what the creek is called as long as it's preserved.

E-type streams generally occur in alluvial valleys that exhibit low elevational relief, like the flatlands near Lucky.

- All creeks are wetlands. There are many different types of wetlands, but each type is defined by its hydric, water-logged soils. Creeks are considered to be "riparian" wetlands. Marshes, bogs, ponds, and lakes are wetlands, too, and all are protected by the California Department of Fish & Game and other state and federal agencies. If this area was once marshy, as Mr. Amberg suggests, this is yet another reason to preserve it.

- The name "Baxter" was found on a map in the possession of the Urban Creeks Council, with information compiled by Alan LaPointe, a long-time historical creek researcher who lives in Richmond. Representatives of the Friends of Baxter Creek are the

creek has also been referred to as Stege Creek and Bishop Creek.

The Friends of Baxter Creek don't plan on responding to any future musings on whether the creek is a ditch. We're much too busy negotiating with Lucky to come up with a design for an expanded store that will restore the creek, preserve open space, and beautify the city. Frankly, we don't care what the creek is called as long as it's preserved. If Mr. Amberg would come down from his lofty perch in the hills, wet his feet in the creek's hydric soils, and put one-tenth the effort the Friends have put into saving this valuable natural resource, we'd even be happy to name the creek after him.

Maryann Aber
Lisa Vian
Co-Founders, Friends of
Baxter Creek



While the Solano Avenue project has been delayed, crews did have time to proceed with tree removal work, including the trees in front of the Albany Cinema.

Projects

Continued from front page

Avenue work slowed

First on the agenda: Solano Avenue repaving, which was delayed by an unexpected moisture under the roadway and by the unusual May rain last week.

Though the city hoped to have the first three blocks of the street repaved by last Friday, Construction Manager Roger Anderman told those present, rain and unanticipated moisture in soil under Solano delayed the repaving (as of Tuesday, city officials hoped to have the street open by late Wednesday). In addition to the rain, water from old lines and a pair of leaky East Bay Municipal Utility District valves had soaked soil underneath the road to the point where new, temporary pavement could not be laid, a condition workers did not discover until they began removing the first three blocks of Solano last week.

Also, Anderman said, peeling off Solano's pavement revealed another unexpected obstacle: the 30-foot-wide cement bed thought to run under the street, it turned out, was instead 60 feet wide, contrary to documents used to plan the project. While there will probably be other delays, the city's goal to build a completely new road, sidewalks, sewers and storm drains by Halloween is still in place. Asphalt removal and repaving on the second three blocks of the project, city officials said Tuesday, will begin

either today or Monday.

AHS replacement plans

Moving on to the Albany Unified School District's projects, Superintendent Dale Hudson then updated the council on the new high school and middle school, which have, of course, experienced a few bumps of their own. The high school was condemned by the board last June for seismic safety reasons, a portable school was opened in September, and in October, the district received word that the State Allocation Board had approved \$20 million for a new school.

Though the \$20 million was, of course, good news, the state will have a lot of say about the new building, Hudson said, such as when dealing with "square footage issues." Also, as the district's emergency situation puts both the district and the state in uncharted waters, "the rules are being developed as we go."

Demolition of the main building will begin this June, at which point the Albany Education Foundation will hold a fund raiser to say goodbye to the old building and raise money for items not paid for in the new one.

Construction is expected to begin in Spring, 1999. The \$20 million to build the new school is dependent on a state bond issue that might or might not be on the ballot in November. If the measure does not make the ballot or fails, said

Board member Ed McManus, it will not prevent the district from moving ahead, although interim financing will have to be found and the delay might add "a couple months" to the project.

Middle school design ok'd

As for the new middle school, which will be located at the former Hill Lumber site, the State Architect approved plans for the school on March 1, and the Allocation Board has agreed to match the district 50/50 on most of the new school, Hudson said. The project has already gone out to bid, with final proposals due May 12, and the board hopes to meet on May 19 and accept the lowest responsible bid.

The district hopes to finish the project by June, 1999, Hudson said, although "it will take some real effort" to have it completed by then.

Teen center, Village

As for the city-run Bill Lewis Teen Center, which sits next to the current middle school, a location near the new school has yet to be found, said Bill Jones, the city's recreation and community services director. The city has \$180,000 in federal funds available for the project, Jones said, and hopes to find a site in time for the opening of the school next year.

Council and board members then heard from City Administrator Daren Fields on the most massive of all massive capital projects un-

derway in Albany: University Village. The first phase of the project, which will replace approximately 400 units of housing, is set to begin in June, and while the University has set aside the Dowling Park area for replacement fields, it has indicated it does not wish to build, fund or operate the fields, but instead hopes to sell the land to Albany.


"This is, I guess, one version of generosity, if you will," Fields said, adding that the university is looking at both Albany and Berkeley as funding sources for phase two of the project. With the hope of coming forward with what they want—as opposed to what they do not—the city and various user groups are currently developing a master plan for the area, which should be finished by September, Fields said.

Also, UC has indicated it wishes to begin joint negotiations with Albany and Berkeley, Fields said, predicting it would be a "long, tough process."

In discussing the project, Board member Ed McManus brought up the board's own disagreements with the university over projected increases in student enrollment, and Council member Peggy Thomsen pointed out that the city and district have a history of working together with regard to the university, and urged members of the two bodies to keep one another informed and work together in applying political pressure.


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Facilitator: Melinda White, Licensed Marriage, Family, and Child Counselor, specializes in working with adults and children with ADHD. She served as the Educational Coordinator for U.C. Berkeley's NIMH treatment study of ADHD.
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Local business earns 'green' designation

Dana Meyer Foreign Car Service is one of 12 Alameda County businesses certified as a "Green Business."

"After 22 years of running a clean business, I was thrilled that local agencies are recognizing the efforts of a shop like mine," Meyer said. "To be certified a 'green,' a business must be in compliance with environmental protection requirements and also conserve energy, water and other resources."

Businesses that meet the standards can display a window decal and use the green business logo in their own promotions. The Green Business Program also does public outreach so that consumers recognize and understand the meaning of the logo. Already, Green Businesses in other cities have reported that customers are responding positively to the logo.

A team of inspectors from local environmental agencies and utility

companies verifies that the business meets the standards. Participating businesses do not endure an additional inspection, rather, they take advantage of a coordinated approach by several existing programs. Interested businesses can sign up for the Green Business Program by contacting Pamela Evans at the East Bay Small Business Development Center at 896-8642, extension 917. Evans will also supply a directory of Green Businesses to anyone who requests one.

The program is a partnership of

elected officials, environmental regulators, utility companies and business groups.

Its funders include US EPA, Alameda County Waste Management Authority & Recycling Board, Alameda County Clean Water Program, California Integrated Waste Management Board, Economic Development Alliance for Business, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, EBMUD, Union Sanitary District, Castro Valley Sanitary District and the cities of Fremont, Hayward and Berkeley.

Victory ship retoration effort needs help

The last Victory ship of World War II, the *Red Oak*, built by the Kaiser shipyards in Richmond, is presently being restored and will be moved to its original berth in Richmond on Sunday, August 30, 1998. They are seeking original workers,

interested personnel, and volunteers to restore this remarkable ship. Seen service in three of America's wars: WWII, Korea and Viet Nam.

The *Red Oak* needs help. For information contact The Richmond Museum of History at 235-7387.

Teen Center flea market needs donations

The City of Albany Bill Lewis Teen Center is currently accepting reservations for booth spaces for its second annual Spring Cleaning Flea Market. The flea market will take place on Saturday June 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Teen Center flea market is a great opportunity to sell collectibles and look for new ones. Last year over 2,000 people attended

the sale.

Each booth space costs \$15. Booths include a 14x14 space, one table and two chairs. Plus, all advertising costs will be picked up by us. Additional tables are available for a nominal fee.

Details, or booth reservation application: Leah Smalley, Teen Services coordinator at 525-0576.

Letters

Continued from front page

face discrimination. Comprehensive HIV/AIDS education helps to counter fear and denial, which keep people from getting tested and cause them to label AIDS as "someone else's problem."

• Supporting condom availability in schools, recreational centers, and other sites where young people gather. One-quarter of all new HIV infections are occurring among teens. While encouraging abstinence among youth remains a priority, we must also lower the barriers to condom use for sexually active teens. Nationally, condom availability programs have increased condom use among teens most at risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, without increasing rates of sexual activity. The West Contra Costa Unified School Districts' condom availability program, developed with input from parents, schools, students, and service providers, is a model for other areas of Contra Costa.

• Promoting efforts to reduce homophobia. Homophobia often leads to social isolation, particularly for gay youth, who may "come out" with little family or peer support. The consequences of this isolation are reflected in HIV statistics: Bay Area young gay men have a rate

of HIV infection that is more than 20 times higher than rates in the general population. Supporting empowering programs for gay youth as well as policies that end verbal and physical harassment in schools is a first step in breaking the link between homophobia and HIV/AIDS.

• Supporting syringe exchange programs. Contra Costa includes sites with some of the highest rates of HIV among injection drug users in the Western United States. While the federal government has endorsed the effectiveness of syringe exchange programs, which reduce HIV transmission without increasing drug use, they refuse to fund these

life-saving programs. Our country must take the initiative to support local syringe exchanges.

We encourage community leaders — from teachers, to business people, to clergy, to elected officials — to join with our agencies and front-line HIV educators in renewing our commitment to HIV prevention.

James Becker, Executive Director Center for Human Development.
David Carrillo, Executive Director Familias Unidas/Desarrollo Familiar
Kathy Simpson, Education Director Planned Parenthood: Shasta-Diablo

Obituary

Philip Haller dies at 87

Philip Haller, a retired architect of Chanin Management company, died Thursday April 30 at his residence in Albany. He was 87.

The Brooklyn, New York native was an Albany resident for many years.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years Sara Haller of Albany; children, Stephen and Marsha Haller; his grandchildren, Kirsten, Maya, Sam and Daniel; his sisters Emily Perlove and Estelle Feerst and his brother Irwin Haller.

Private services were held with his family and friends. Arrangements under the care of Ellis-Olson Mortuary, Albany.

Obituaries

EDA ZAVATTARO

In Walnut Creek May 2, 1998 Beloved wife of the late Louis J. Zavattaro. Dear Mother of Joan Dailey of Pleasanton and Janice Catalano of Moraga. Devoted grandmother of Michael, Jennifer, Jeffrey, Anne, Kristine and Mark. Great Grandmother of Will. Sister of Alma Isola, angle and Henry Accorero. Also Survived by Many Loving Nieces and Nephews. A Native of Oakland, CA, Age 86 years. A past member of Albany High Mothers Club, long time member of St. Ambrose church, A volunteer at Brookside Hospital for many years. A funeral Mass will be held Thursday 10 a.m., May 7, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 1145 Gliman St., Berkeley, committal St. Joseph Cemetery, San Pablo. Memorials may be made in her name to the Alzheimers Services of the East Bay, 2320 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA. 94704. Arrangements were under the care of Ellis-Olson Mortuary, Albany, CA.

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■ Goings On About Town

■ **Submissions to Goings On About Town** must be received **Thursdays one week prior to publication**. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

La Peña's May Saturday Morning Children's Programs

May 9; 10:30 a.m.; Singer/songwriter Dan Goldensohn shares songs and games. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 849-2568. \$3. Kids: \$2.

Ongoing

The Senin Foundation for Japanese Cultural Arts: Monday through Thursday, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.; Martial Arts for Kids ages 5 - 14, instruction in aikijutsu, yoga, healing arts and fine arts for mom and dad; 1053 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 526-7518.

Classes

May 7
How to Grow Your Business: 8 - 9 a.m.; a discussion by Peg Boyle, Marketing Consultant for businesses at CopyWorld, 2154 University Ave., Berkeley. Co-sponsored by Santa Fe Bar & Grill; for information call 849-9701.

May 11
Bike Fix-it-Yourself: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.; also May 18, 25; a professional Bike Mechanic for deaf people. At Missing Links Bicycle Shop, Shattuck and University Ave. Call 644-2000. Only \$10 for four classes, but limited to eight deaf students.

May 12
Beading and Ceramics Class: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; open to anyone, register on the first day of class; St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College and Garber, Berkeley, 845-6830.

Vista Community College
May 9; "How to Open a Travel Agency"; 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; registration open until class begins; room 303, 2020 Milvia Street between University Avenue and Addison Street, Berkeley; call 841-8860. Ext. 213 for a free brochure and details.

Ongoing

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club
Offers classes starting the third week of April and ending the last week of June. Classes are from 7:15 - 9:15 p.m. and will prepare you for a final test to get your license to use amateur radios; John Wood, 234-0527; Berkeley Fire Dept. Training Center, Cedar between 8th and 9th.

Taoist Internal Arts Association;

classes at In Motion: A Center for Moving, Healing and Martial Arts: Dragon & Tiger Chi Gung, Taoist Water Method Chi Gung, Tai-Chi, Ba Gua, Hsing-I, Weekend Workshops in Taoist meditation and bodywork training, 813 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 527-7760. First Evening of Classes free.

Psychic Healing Clinic: Mondays 7 - 9 p.m.; at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley. Relieve Stress, release emotional baggage and renew yourself. For more info call 800-794-1991.

The International Spiritual Hypnotherapy Institute: Mondays 6 - 8:30 p.m.; hypnosis clinic; stop smoking, lose weight, release stress, fears and phobias. Delve into yourself for greater clarity and insight. For more information call 800-794-1991.

No Sweat Aerobics and Dance Studio: all classes and events take place at 1831 Solano Ave., Berkeley; call for the weekly schedule 528-1958; \$7 - 9 for drop-ins unless otherwise noted.

The Yogasource offers daily classes in Bikram's Yoga. Developed by Bikram Choudhury known as "Guru to the stars," prepare to work hard for 90 minutes. Introductory classes are one hour; 558-YOGA.

Yoga at Noon: Thursdays and Fridays until 1 p.m.; Classes include stretching exercises, seated and moving meditation, healing arts, and breathing exercises. Japanese Yoga classes are also offered; Senin Foundation Center for Japanese Cultural Arts, 11053 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 526-7518.

Berkeley Yoga Center offers free introductory Yoga classes and other free events every Friday from 7-8:30 p.m.; 1250 Addison St., suite 209, Berkeley; Call 649-9812 for a full schedule of classes and workshops.

Salsa Lessons: 7 - 8 p.m., beginners; 8 - 9 p.m., intermediate; Steve Friedman gives Salsa dance lessons every Monday night at the Francis Albrer Community Center, 2800 Park St., Berkeley, 287-9501; \$7 for one, \$12 for both lessons.

Community Events

May 9 and 10
Kensington Library's Book Sale: Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; new and used books at the Kensington Community Center, 61 Arlington Ave.,

May 10
People's Park 20th Anniversary: Noon to 6 p.m.; At Haste and Telegraph,

Berkeley. Music By: Caribbean Allstars Reggae Angels, Funky Nixons, Clay Dyken, Culture of Rage, Plus X-plicit Players. Free speech-open mike time; Food not Bombs!, Skate Demo; 845-7194.

Claremont and the Uplands: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; a Spring House Tour; make reservations now; 841-2242. Tickets are \$25.

May 12
Mystery Week at the Kensington Library: 7 p.m.; come hear mystery writers Rhys Bowen and Joanne Pence; Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave.

May 14
West Berkeley Market Opening: A Berkeley Farmer's Market - project of the Ecology Center. University Ave. and 4th St. (Canned Foods Lot) 2 - 7 p.m.; 548-3333.

Ongoing
North Berkeley Senior Center
May 8; Video Opera "La Traviata" Part 2; 1 p.m. Also: a Mature Driver Class with AARP from 1-5 p.m. \$8.

May 11; Aurora Theater Paly Talk; come meet Dorothy Bryant for new play "Posing for Gudeon" discussion and sign up for free matinee on May 23.

May 12; Oxford School Recorder Band; playing at 11:45 a.m.

May 13; Video Movie: "The Eddie Cantor Story"; 1 p.m.

Also the Sacramento Senior Rally Trip is on May 13; lobby for issues, free bus ride, sign up now!

May 14; Tai Chi with Brian Amex at 2 p.m.

1910 Hearst and MLK Jr. Way, Berkeley, 644-6107.

Kensington 55+ Senior Center
May 7; 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.; Red Cross blood pressure check; flowers: Bob Raabe shows slides and instructs on Gardens. 12:45; Movie: Old Time Comedy.

May 14; Travel: Anil Ranadive shows slides of his homeland, Southern India; May birthdays celebrated.

52 Arlington Ave. Kensington, 526-9146.

The Lawrence Hall of Science, celebrates its 30th anniversary as an internationally renowned center. They would like to hear from individuals whose lives or careers were altered by the Hall of Science. Contact Gerri Ginsburg at Lawrence Hall of Science, UC-Berkeley, CA 94720-5200.

Women's Support Groups and Stress Reduction, Fridays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon; Support, nourish and replenish our-

selves. Develop healthy relationships for older women; El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. Pre-registration required, call Amy Weiss, 466-5844.

The Open House Senior Center: support and events for the senior community, new events daily, 6500 Stockton Ave. El Cerrito, 215-4340 for the daily schedule. Call to reserve your lunch.

Able Cable presents On the Move; a television show produced by and for the disabled community. Broadcast on KTEH Channel 54, PBS in Santa Clara County, Monday, Tuesday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m.; on BTV Channel 25, 408-720-8069 for more information.

Volunteers needed at the Alameda County Community Food Bank to help feed the hungry and homeless by sorting food or participating in food drives or other special events. Call 568-3668 ext. 308 for more information and current schedule.

The Open House Senior Center: volunteers needed to work in the Alzheimer's Respite Social day care program each Tuesday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Part-time help is welcome and no experience is necessary. Call Ellen at 215-4340 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for more information.

Moms in Community: Mothers encouraging and supporting each other to be their best, grow spiritually, intellectually and socially; meet new people and build lasting Christian friendships; relax with a great group of diverse women; Fridays 9:30-11:30. Childcare begins at 9:15 a.m. First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, 2407 Dana St. Voicemail: 848-6252 ext. 558.

Volunteers needed; Crisis support Services of Alameda County, formerly Suicide Prevention, receives nearly 50,000 calls per year and the need for people to serve the 24-hour crisis lines is constant. No prior experience required, training provided; 848-1515.

Exhibits

May 8
In Black & White; through June 7; a mixed media exhibit; also: Landscape Fictions, paintings, sculpture, photo and glass; ACCI Gallery, 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 843-2527.

May 9
UC-Berkeley's Masters of Fine Arts Graduate exhibition. Eight artists to graduate in 1998, exhibit at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 642-0808.

for more info. May 10; admission to the Berkeley Art Museum is free for mothers accompanied by a child. Happy Mother's Day!

Albany Arts Gallery; through June 12; "Flowers of California" color photography by Michael Williams; 1251 Solano Ave., Albany, 526-9558.

May 10

An Exhibit of Historic Materials; through September 6; never before seen! Stalin's Forgotten Zion: Birobidzhan and the making of a Soviet Jewish Homeland; Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St.; 549-6950.

Ongoing

Sensitivity over Space; through July 21; an exhibit of original works in sculpture, ceramic, graphics and acrylic on canvas and paper by Calman Shemi; MiLa Fine Arts, 1307 Solano Ave., Albany, 558-0334 or 845-0653 for info.

Dancing at the Louvre; Faith Reingold's French Collection and other Story Quilts; through Aug. 31; Berkeley's Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 642-0808, general admission \$6.

19th Annual Quilt Show open during regular library hours. Featuring quilts by the Japanese American Service of the East Bay. At Berkeley's North Branch, 1170 The Alameda, Berkeley, 644-6850.

Chris Shaw's recent Artwork at D. King Gallery, 2284 Fulton St., Berkeley, 548-1062 or www.dking-gallery.com for more info.

1997 Kala Art Institute Fellowship Awards Exhibits, Part II; through June 5; Workshop Media Center Gallery, 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, 549-2977.

Alan Ostreicher's photographs appear at PhotoLab 2235 Fifth Street until May 9; 644-1400.

Bronze Age; through June 14; an outdoor exhibition of contemporary abstract and figurative bronze sculptures by five nationally known artists; New Leaf Gallery 1286 Gilman St., Berkeley, 525-7621.

Handbuilt Functional Pots; through May 31; works by Mark Pharis; Trax Gallery, 1306 3rd St., Berkeley, 526-0279.

Berkeley Art Museum
Wendy Ewald: Collaborative Portraits; through July 5

Jochen Gerz: The Berkeley Oracle; through May 31

2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 642-0808.

Shrines of Color, Currents of Light;

through May 15; featuring works Flannigan, Hulston, Hibbets and Fleming Reception is April 18; 1 - 5 p.m.; Anna's 1801 University. The exhibit at the Kathleen Flannigan Gallery, 1801 University Ave., at Grant, Berkeley, 849-9032.

The Visible Word; through July 5; An exhibit of ancient and contemporary Byzantine; 7 p.m.; April 28 is the opening reception. At the Flora Law Hewlett Library, Graduate Theological Union, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, 849-9032.

"In Celebration of Passover: Contemporary Judaic Images"; through May 28; an exhibition of lithographs, serigraphs, original paintings and sculptures by leading Israeli contemporary artists; 1307 Solano Ave. Albany, 845-0653.

"Glimpses of Arcadia"; through June; works by Albany artist Cal Ferretti; Foyer Gallery of the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. Union, 524-9283 for more info.

A.C.C.I. Gallery Exhibits: Due to earthquake retrofit construction, call to confirm that the gallery is open. Through June 7; Front Gallery, The Arts and Crafts Cooperative Inc., 1652 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 849-2527.

Lectures and Workshops

May 11
"You'd Better Shop Around... Electricity?"; 7:30 p.m.; a workshop answer many of your questions about energy efficiency; Berkeley Public Library, South Branch, 1901 Russell Berkeley, 644-6860.

May 13
"New Perspective on Biodiversity: the Microbial World"; 7:30 p.m.; Norman Pace, professor of Plant Microbiology, UC Berkeley; Valley Life Sciences Building. For info call 642-7540.

"Toward a Culture of Awakening: the Microbial World"; 7:30 p.m.; Stephen Batchelor, author of *Buddhism Without Beliefs*; Northbrae Community Church, The Alameda and Los Angeles in Berkeley; a benefit for the Buddhist Fellowship, 655-6169; \$10.

Turning Point Career Center
May 7; 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.; Assess Your Skills Using the Skills Bank; \$15 May 12; 3 - 4 p.m.; Interview with Confidence; \$5.

See GOINGS, page 10



HEALTH & FITNESS



Falling And Breaking Your Hip Can Kill You!

By Dr. Laura VanHarn

the research clearly shows that strength training **increases bone mineral density and reverses OSTEOPOROSIS.** In addition, it improves balance and mobility, and significantly reduces the likelihood of falling and sustaining a fracture. No medication can do this.

Here at the **Phytness Connection** we have living proof of the benefit of strength training. In the last three years many women in our program have come to me concerned about the results of their bone density tests. In all cases, after one year of training under my supervision, their bone mineral density retests showed a significant increase. One woman who is 67 had an increase of 10%.

Her doctor was so surprised he asked the technician to double check the results. Another very pleased client, who was diagnosed with early onset osteoporosis, at age 52, retested with a 7% increase in bone mineral density which took her out of the fracture zone. I believe that in one more year she will have completely stopped osteopenia which is the natural process of bone loss with age.

Most importantly if you fall and break a hip or are simply not strong enough to exercise your cardiovascular system your chances of dying of the number one killer of Americans, **Coronary Heart Disease**, will greatly increase. Please take the time to make an appointment to talk to me about the programs at the **Phytness Connection**. There is no charge for this consultation. SO, CALL TODAY! (510) 339-

Hi! It is me again, Dr. Laura VanHarn... Your local Exercise Physiologist. Yes!... I was surprised at the recent statistics that show complications due to a hip fracture are the number two cause of death in the United States. One in five people over 60 die after falling and breaking a hip. On top of that, a woman is more likely to die as a result of a hip fracture than from breast cancer, uterine cancer, and ovarian cancer combined.

The disease that causes the hip to fracture easily and more often is **OSTEOPOROSIS.** Of the 300,000 people who wind up in a hospital after a hip fracture caused by osteoporosis, half never return home again. Aging brings on this disease as its natural course of events for both men and women. However, women begin the process earlier. The turning point is from age 35 to menopause. A woman begins to lose bone at a rate of 1/2 percent per year, if no measures are taken to prevent it. The first five years after menopause, unless something is done about it, a woman loses 1 to 2 percent or even more of her bone mass every year. This is the most critical time for preventive measures.

What can you do to prevent **OSTEOPOROSIS?** You need to challenge your muscle with resistance progressively and safely. **Strength training**, if done properly, can increase muscle and bone. Your muscles can become young again and your bones can become dense again. In the past 10 years,

6546. The Phytness Connection, 6116 La Salle Ave. Oakland, CA. We are now accepting a limited enrollment

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Inside Out Fitness offers you the chance to improve your health through the well thought programs designed by the husband and wife team of Ed Taaffe and Sharon Smiley. The combined expertise

and background of this dynamic duo, along with their team of quality instructors provides one of the best workout schedules in the East Bay. Inside Out gives people a focal point for their health and fitness needs, says Taaffe, who has been teaching exercise for 25 years. "I prefer the studio environment to that of a mega-club. We get to know our members personally and can encourage and guide them in their progress."

Inside Out has developed a comprehensive variety of programs including a full schedule of aerobic dance and Circuit Training. You can take advantage of classes such as Abs & Stretch, Yoga, and Core Power to increase flexibility, strength, and balance. Target Training and Power Sweat allow you to sculpt your physique. "We're here to give you a varied and well rounded approach to fit-

ness while having fun", says Sharon.

Circuit Training, a combination of weight training and aerobic conditioning, has been popular at Inside Out for fifteen years. And Sharon Tunney of Piedmont asserts, "I've been circuit training at Inside Out since 1984. I wouldn't get my morning started without it."

"Inside Out looks forward to assisting you in realizing your fitness goals in a clean, nutritious atmosphere that is welcoming to everyone, says Taaffe. "We continue to live up to our reputation of being 'The Best Small Health Club in the East Bay.'"

Inside Out Fitness is Located 4444 Piedmont Ave., Oakland Hours: M-F, 5:45 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sat. 6:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sun. a.m. - 3 p.m. Call 655-8308.

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Goings

Continued from page A12

May 14; 10 - 11 a.m.; Networking for the Arts; \$5.
3600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; 848-0000.

City Commons Club
May 8; Noon Luncheon: Luis Felipe Perez, Consul General of Colombia, speaks about "Colombian-American Citizens Today."

Speaker starts at 12:30 p.m.; \$1 addition with coffee, lunch served for fee; 35 Durant Ave. Berkeley; 848-3533 or 4725 for info or reservations.

La Peña Cultural Center's Talks
May 8; Suppressed histories: Mexico. Dashi with a slide talk; 7:30 p.m.; \$10.

May 10; Pam Africa Speaks. A tribute to revolutionary activist Merle Africa. 3:00 p.m.; \$5.
1105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley; 849-0105.

UC Berkeley Extension Events
May 8; 7:30 p.m.; Robert Haas discusses "What Does It Mean to Be an American?" In the Alumni House, UC Berkeley Campus, \$15 to the public, \$5 for students.

May 9; check in 8:30-9 a.m.; program 9 - 4:30 p.m.; Plate Tectonics: Data and New Interpretations; 105 North Gate Hall, UC Campus; \$50 for public and \$15 for students.

The Adventures of a Modern Queerologist; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; 145 Melville Hall, UC-Berkeley campus, \$70 for members of Friends of the Croft Library (fee includes box lunch).

Ongoing
First Fridays Free; 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., every first Friday of the month; sculpture demonstrations: clay, wax, plaster, sculpture, rubber, concrete, molds; van Zanden Studio, 1025 Carleton St. #9, Berkeley; 843-9445.

Literary Events
May 11
The Poet and the Dancer; 7-9 p.m.; Erica Angilly and Richard Angilly, authors of "The Poet and the Dancer," present a fusion of the two art forms with readings; 7-9 p.m.; Berkeley Museum at the Pacific Film Archive space, 2621 Durant Ave.

May 14
Playwrights Cafe; 7-10 p.m.; Willene leads writing exercises at a meeting of the local playwrighting group; Ama Books, 1322A Solano Ave., Al-

bany, 704-8855 for reservations (required). \$10.

GAIA Bookstore and Community Center

May 7; 7:30 p.m.; Marybeth Bond, *A Mother's World and Gutsy Mama's*

May 8; 7:30 p.m.; Elizabeth Murray, *Cultivating Sacred Space: Gardening for the Soul*.

May 11; 6 p.m.; Nina Shandler, *Estrogen: The Natural Way*.

May 12; 6 p.m.; Paul Pearsall, *The Heart's Code: The Wisdom and Power of our Heart Energy*.

May 13; 6 p.m.; Stella Crawley, *In Honor of Women*.

May 13; 6 p.m.; Boston Women's Health Collective, *Our Bodies, Ourselves for the New Century*.

May 14; 7:30 p.m.; Greg Bogart, *The Nine Stages of Spiritual Apprenticeship*. 1400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley; 848-GAIA.

Easy Going Travel Shop and Bookstore
May 7; 7:30 p.m.; California Camping by Tom Stienstra, who will put on a slide presentation and reveal his favorite little known places to camp, fish and hike.

May 12; 7:30 p.m.; Alaska: Adventures in Nature by Paul Otteson, a slide show and talk focussed on America's last frontier.

1385 Shattuck Ave. at Rose, Berkeley; 843-3533.

Poetry Flash at Cody's Books
May 13; 7:30 p.m.; Poetry Reading with Luke Trent and Carolyn West.

2454 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley; 845-7852. Suggested donation is \$2.

La Peña Cultural Center Presents
May 7; Latin American Storytelling in Spanish and Colombian Dance. 8 p.m.; \$10.

May 8; Cafe Poetry and Open Mike. Hosted by poet Blake Tolbert; 7:30 p.m.; \$2 donation.

May 13; Poetry for the People; Berkeley High School Year Ned Reading and Celebration. An evening of powerful, provocative poetry by BHS students. 7:30 p.m.; free.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley; 849-2568.

Meetings

Ongoing
The Grief Care Community provides a safe, supportive environment in which to share your loss with others who understand. An 8-week bereavement support group for loss through death as well as ongoing spiritually oriented groups; 540-0830.

Emotions Anonymous; a 12-step program, meets Sundays at 8 p.m.; Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (Near Solano), Berkeley; 527-1243.

Berkeley Camera Club; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; share your slides and prints and learn from other photographers. Monthly field trips; Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Wade at 531-8664 for more info.

Overeaters Anonymous; 7-8 p.m. Thursdays; OA provides free support through its 12-step program for overeaters, anorexics and bulimics; Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin, MOB II third floor, Richmond; for information call Stephanie at 841-8562 or OA's information tape at 273-9292.

Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program; 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Wednesdays; B.O.R.P. welcomes new members to its Older Adults Program, people with disabilities who are 40 years or older join with others for social activities, fitness, excursions and fun; South Berkeley Senior Center; call Meg Stenger, 849-4663, to sign up (nominal membership fee).

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Catholics; 7:30 p.m.; the group meets each first and third Thursday of the month; The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Catholics seek to affirm and to integrate sexuality and spirituality in the Christian faith through the Catholic tradition; Newman Hall, 2700 Dwight Way at College Avenue, Berkeley; Wendy, 849-3910 or Antonio at 841-7718.

Alzheimer's Association; 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; second Saturday of each month; offering help, information and support to families and/or caregivers of a loved one who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease through their support group program; St. Paul's AME Church, 2024 Ashby Ave., Berkeley; (415) 962-8111.

Toastmasters on Campus; 6:15 p.m.; practice public speaking in a supportive environment; every Tuesday; 2515 Hillegass Ave., Berkeley; Odette Larde, 643-7645 (w) or Al Mangin 970-4355 (w).

TOPS; 7:15 - 8:30; Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) meets every Thursday

evening; First Baptist Church, Richmond, Solano below Arlington; Betty Coates, 235-0490 for more information.

TOPS; 9:30 a.m. weigh in; 10:30 a.m. meeting; Albany Chapter, meets Monday mornings; 980 Stannage Ave., Albany; 528-9056 (Paul).

Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters; 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.; public speaking skills and metaphysics come together; ongoing meetings first and third Thursdays; 2515 Hillegass Ave., Berkeley; 848-6510.

Anxiety Phobic Support Group, for persons 40 and over on the first Saturday of each month, 10:15 - 12:15. At St. James' Lutheran Church, 1963 Carlson Blvd., Richmond. For info: 233-5543.

MUSIC

May 9
Berkeley New Music Project; 8 p.m.; new music by graduate student composers. At Hertz hall, on the UC Berkeley Campus, Bancroft and College, 642-9988 for ticket info.

The Berkeley Opera; 8 p.m. through May 17; Verdi's Dialogues of the Carmelites, at the Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 798-1300. \$23, \$18 seniors, \$15 youth.

Hausmusik; 8 p.m.; Conversationi - Musical Jewels of the French and Italian Baroque. In the Parish Hall at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St., Albany, 524-5661. \$16 general, \$13 students.

May 13
The Crowden School Chamber Music Orchestra and Chorus Spring Concert; 7:30 p.m.; performing Bartok, Mozart, Schumann and others; St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, College and Garber Streets; 644-2299. \$10 general, \$5 seniors.

May 14
Berkeley Symphony Orchestra; 8 p.m.; season ends with a performance of Gustav Mahler's Das Klagende Lied; Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft between Telegraph and Dana, 841-2800 or 642-9988 or 762-BASS for tickets. \$19 - \$35.

Freight & Salvage Coffee House
May 7; Barbara Dane, blues songs, red songs, old, new and borrowed songs.

May 8; Peppino D'Agostino, Italian Acoustic Guitar virtuoso.

May 9; Kathy Kallick with Avram Siegel, Tom Bekany and Amy Stenberg, singer/songwriter, Good Ol' Persons Sounder.

May 10; 1 p.m.; Kathy Kallick and friends Mother's Day family show.

8 p.m.; Pierre Bensusan, French acoustic guitar wizard.

May 14; Duck Baker, influential fingerstyle guitarist.

1111 Addison St., Berkeley; 548-1761; tickets are an extra dollar if bought at the door. Door Opens 7:30 p.m.; Music at 8 p.m.

Ashekenaz
May 7; 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.; Grateful Dead DJ Night with Digital Dave and Jazz Z.D.; \$4.

May 8; Steven Mitchell and the Hollywood Hepsters (swing and lindy hop!); 8 p.m. swing lesson with Nick and Shanna, 9 p.m. music; \$12.

May 9; African Rhythm Messengers (highlife, soukous) 11 p.m.; 9:30 Midnight Sun opens (reggae) all \$10.

May 10; Children's Community Center Event for the whole family; 2-4 p.m.; \$5 adults and Marina Pacifica (marimba and guests Yo Mama Drums) 8 p.m.; \$8.

May 12; Tierra Morena, (salsa, cumbia, merengue) 9 p.m.; 8 p.m. lesson with Steve; \$7.

May 13; Rusty Zinn Blues Band (West Coast Swing) 9 p.m.; 8 p.m. lesson. \$8.

May 14; David Gans and the Broken Angels (Grateful Dead Style) 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.; \$4.

1317 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley; 525-5054.

Caribbean Spice Restaurant
Dinner served until 9:45 p.m.; reservations advised. \$10 per person.

1920 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley; 843-3035.

The Starry Plough
May 7; Crossed and Shelley Doty and Friends, \$5.

May 8; Last Show for Sloe Gin Joes followed by Gas Daddies; \$5.

May 9; Tempest and Pneuma; \$7.

May 14; CD purchase party, Andrea Hurley and Her Very Attractive Band + Kristin Battersby; \$3.

Music starts at 9:45 p.m.; on Friday and Saturday; Thursday at 9:30 p.m.; 3101 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley; 841-2082.

Jazzschool
May 10; 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Connie Crothers plays solo piano at the Jazzschool. Seating is limited and reservations suggested. 2375 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley; 845-5373. \$12 general, \$10 students and seniors.

Live Oak Concerts
May 10; 7:30 p.m.; A concert by Berkeley Youth from Jefferson Elementary School and others. In conjunction with

the center's Chamber Music Series. 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley, 644-6893. \$10 general, \$9 students, \$8.

La Peña Cultural Center
May 8; Rafael Manriquez and Quique Cruz; 8 p.m.; \$8.

May 9; Jesus Diaz y Su Qba; 9:30 p.m.; \$12.

May 10; Mother's Day Concert: Aiko Shimada and a koto performance with Shirley Muramoto and students; 8 p.m.; \$6.

May 14; Tribu performs ancestral prehispanic music. 8 p.m.; \$10.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 849-2568.

Ongoing
Young People's Symphony Orchestra auditions; the first two weeks in May, for those between 14 and 21 and reside in the Greater Bay Area; St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, 2727 College Ave.; 849-9776.

Outdoors

May 10
Special Event in the Regional park district; a free concert, at the Environmental Education Center, Tilden Regional park. Call 562-PARK for more info.

Berkeley's Botanical Garden
Mother's Day Tea; 1:30 - 4 p.m.; What nicer place to bring Mom than the Botanical Garden? Those mothers who are accompanied by their children but do not wish tea will receive free admission to the garden; UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive in Berkeley. \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers, includes admission to the gardens.

REI Berkeley
May 7; 7 p.m. Climbing Mt. Shasta, the second highest volcano in the United States.

May 14; 7 p.m.; Bike, Hike and Kayak Canada's New West Coast Trail, along the rugged and wild coasts of Vancouver. A slide and info talk.

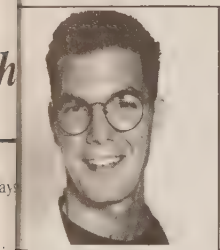
1338 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley, 527-4140.

May 14
Gardening Year Around; 7-9 p.m.; a seminar with Pamela Pierce, author of *Golden Gate Gardening*. \$10/\$15; UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive in Berkeley. \$8 for members and \$10 for non, includes admission to the gardens.

See GOINGS, page C14



HEALTH & FITNESS



As I See It

By Dr. Jason A. Deitch

Thank you, thank you, and thank you. I truly want to thank you all who I have had the opportunity to meet and care for over the past year. This month marks the one-year anniversary of Discover Chiropractic, The Foundation for Natural Health and Healing and The Back to Nature Store.

Some have come just to find out what's new in natural health care. Some have come with specific health concerns. Some come to come, in order to stay well and others continue to bring family and friends to stay healthy and vital together. No matter what brought you to see me over the past year, I appreciate the opportunity to serve you. It truly is a dream come true to be able to serve others with such an evolutionary approach to life and wellness. I appreciate your desire to explore new ideas and hope that what you have discovered has a positive impact on your life.

Many people have attended my weekly seminar, Maximum Health: Beyond Prevention. This seminar is designed to enable people to take responsibility for being healthy and well. Together, we discover dangerous myths about our present health care system and how what we don't know, can hurt us. Knowledge creates an empowering feeling of being in charge,

and restores higher levels of self-confidence. Our collective commitment to self-improvement creates the opportunity for a healthier more powerful future, through healthier more powerful people. All of us play a part in this goal by taking care of ourselves while we are well, not just when we are sick or hurt.

The miracles we have experienced over the past year, makes the dedication to being a doctor/teacher worth it all. We have laughed and we have cried. We have seen newborns come into this world with the benefit of having a nerve system that will allow for maximum development. We have seen aches and pains heal, headaches disappear. Nervousness and depression improve, and blood pressures normalize. We have seen chronic conditions, such as allergies, asthma, ear infections, attention deficits, hyperactivity's, digestive disorders, and others improve, restoring the ability to be active and have freedom. We have seen people with serious chronic conditions such as cancer, improve. We have seen people die with more dignity.

What I hope to inspire in all of us is to remember that our health is our number one priority, our most important resource. Take a moment to think about how important the things in life are, if we were to suddenly lose our

health and well being.

You are invited to experience my Tuesday night seminar, it is a great opportunity to meet me and find out more about achieving "Maximum Health". If you have been thinking about seeing a Chiropractor, I can help you. If you have received my care in the past and would like to continue staying well, I would love to see you again. If you already incorporate my care as part of your family wellness plan, than I simply want to say "Thank you for your trust." Dr. Jason Deitch is a Doctor of Chiropractic. His private practice is in the beautiful Oakland Hills. 5550 Redwood Road near Skyline Blvd. 531-LIFE (5433).

"Maximum Health, Beyond Prevention"
Tuesday nights at 7 p.m.
call 531-LIFE 5433 to reserve a seat
5550 Redwood Road in the
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Is your family well adjusted?

Our health is our number one priority.
Why do we wait until we lose it to decide that it is so important?

Millions of families stay healthy by keeping well adjusted.

Keeping your family healthy is your business.
Helping you do it, is mine.

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The Foundation for Natural Health and Healing The Back to Nature Store

INTEGRATED FITNESS GROUP

Arthritis: The Number-One Cause of Disability in the U.S.

Some 40 million Americans are affected by arthritis. It is the number-one cause of disability in the U.S., costing the economy an estimated \$68.4 billion in medical care and related costs.

To put that first number into perspective, the number of Americans affected by arthritis is double the number of members in every athletic club and fitness center in the U.S.

Everyone who is affected by arthritis needs to be in some type of therapeutic exercise program. Without such a program, pain and fatigue will generally increase, functional capability is likely to diminish, and the

inflammation and stiffness associated with arthritis will generally worsen.

Over the past 20 years, the National Arthritis Foundation (NAF) has developed two different exercise programs—a land based exercise program, and a water exercise program—with proven results. These results include increased range of motion, decreased pain, fatigue, stiffness, and depression, enhanced functional capacity, and improvements in strength, endurance, and self-efficiency.

If you suffer the debilitating effects of arthritis, check with your health club to see if they offer programs such as these, or come visit us, and let us help you to find a healthier, happier and more comfortable way to be in the world. Located at 5770

Shellmound Avenue in Emeryville. (510) 428-1182.

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Temper dreams with realism

■ Around Town

By Chris Treadway
Journal editor

The believers and the skeptics were out in force Monday when the El Cerrito Plaza's co-owners presented their proposal for redeveloping the property, and needless to say, they tore the proposal — or as one speaker put it, "half a proposal" — apart. And yet, as Henry Englehardt, representing Plaza co-owner American Stores, put it at the conclusion of the lengthy session, "We're still standing."

The partners bought more time, and those attending came away with both hope and ammunition for the next go-round in July. That leaves plenty of time to analyze the proposal and the alternatives.

But what specifics can we gather immediately? A few observations from here:

- The department store dream lives on (and Kathie Perka received several well-deserved rounds of applause for the petition effort she initiated), although questions about financing and the outcome of negotiations with Gottschalks

abound. The urban village place for the community, is definitely in the ballgame. (It should be noted that even speakers supporting the urban village idea either support or have no objection to bringing a department store here, provided it is feasible.)

- The Capwell's building and the buildings immediately to its east are goners. The irony here is that a local contractor who has done considerable work at the Plaza maintains that the buildings slated for demolition (are the ones in the best shape, while the buildings planned for retention are in the need of the most overhaul, far more than the facade improvements discussed Monday.)

- Having residential units at the Plaza is a dead issue and was barely discussed.

- The uneasy shotgun marriage of the Plaza Company and American Stores is still active, but still uneasy.

- The question of where to put BART commuters who presently park in the Plaza lot may well be a future battleground, with the Plaza partners saying that they are open to

talking if BART wants to come to the table, but that ultimately parking is the transit agency's responsibility.

- The Plaza's remaining merchants have two more months of worrying and dreaming of what might be while hanging on by their thumbs.

The best line from the evening's many speakers came from Fr. John Maxwell, pastor of St. John's, who concluded his short sermon and summarized the prayers of shoppers by saying "Trees are wonderful, but we desperately need this department store in our community. Amen." Counterbalancing that was the speaker who noted that all the talk of being "desperate" to have a department store is not a good bargaining position to be in.

The bottom line: Cost is the overriding factor. The city has little or no funds to spend, and the Plaza partners, even though their financial figures are non-existent, have made it clear they have limits as well.

In the meantime, everyone has two more months to dream or wait in frustration, and analyze the Plaza's future. Stay tuned.



The candidate and her campaign manager

As you've probably guessed by now, I'm a registered Democrat. And like every other Democrat in the state, I received an expensive mailer from Al Checchi with the headline in big, bold letters blaring: "Al Checchi Democrat For Governor."

In black-and-white, the word "Democrat" looks grayer than the other words; but in color it's gold, and it stands out boldly against the background.

The text reads (in part): "Dear Mr. Snapp ... This election is particularly important for Democrats. Sixteen years of Republican rule have severely damaged our state ... I am a Democrat with real world experience."

That's when the proverbial light bulb went on over my head, and I called my brother Steve, who's a registered Republican, and said, "When you get a mailer from

Two faces
of a
politician.

Checchi, please send it to me."

Well, yesterday my brother's Checchi mailer arrived. As you can see, it's a clone of the one I got, with one glaring exception: The dreaded D-word is nowhere in sight. Even if you pore over the fine print with a magnifying glass, there's not even a hint that the guy is a Democrat.

And if you look at his platform - or, more accurately, the lack thereof - it's hard to find any principles at all, Democratic or Republican.

What we've come to is the Jerry Seinfeldization of American politics. Now, our political campaigns are all about ... Nothing.

You think I'm kidding? Checchi is running on the proposition that he's made a bunch of bucks, and that somehow qualifies him to tell the rest of us what to do. Look, fat cats like Checchi had too much power even back in the good old days, when they confined their activities to buying politicians. Do we really want to go the rest of the way and let them actually hold all the offices themselves?

Not to be outdone when it comes to fatuousness, Checchi's fellow zillionaire Jane Harman (her husband is the Harman in Harman-Kardon) is running on this inspiring three-point platform:

1. Dianne Feinstein isn't running.
2. Dianne Feinstein is a woman.
3. So am I.

Then there's Gray Davis, who is running on his "experience." By "experience," he means he's spent his whole career as a colorless hack who's never shown much talent for anything except raising a lot of money.

In fact, the only major candidate who actually has any principles is Dan Lungren. Unfortunately, his principles are to the right of Atilla the Hun.

It's all too depressing for words. You know we're in trouble when all three Democratic candidates are running commercials using Bill Clinton as their character witness! I never thought I'd say it, but this crop makes Pete Wilson look like a heavyweight.

The late Henry L. Mencken once said, "The American people know what they want and deserve to get it - good and hard." In that spirit, I've decided to come forward and offer a candidate who combines the most distinctive aspects of all the others. Who is it? You're looking at it.

No, no, not me. I mean Phoebe, my little gray tabby cat.

She's the perfect candidate for our times. She's as female as Harman. She's as spoiled as Checchi. She's even grayer than Gray Davis. And if you think Dan Lungren looks like Inspector Javert in his relentless pursuit of Dennis Peron, you should see Phoebe hunt mice.

Now, you might object that Phoebe has no agenda, other than making sure her personal whims are constantly catered to. But does that make her different from anyone else who's running?

Besides, since the voters seem to be insisting on candidates who are warm and fuzzy, who could be warmer or fuzzier?

So if you're as disgusted by the choice as I am, write in Phoebe the Cat for Governor. She may not win, but one thing's for sure: If any of those other clowns get in, you lose.

...

In glaring contrast to the mediocrities running for governor, I flipped the channel to C-SPAN last week and watched a true statesman being honored at the commissioning of the Navy's newest submarine, the U.S.S. Jimmy Carter.

Carter is the living refutation of Harry Truman's famous dictum, "a statesman is a politician who's dead." He's very much alive, and he said two things at the ceremony that caught my attention.

First, he said, "I'd rather have a submarine named after me than an airport," which shows he's still galled by his loss to Ronald Reagan in 1980.

He also said, "This is the greatest honor of my life." And while it is a great honor, he's wrong about it being the greatest. His greatest honor happened about 10 years ago, when his daughter Amy was arrested at a demonstration against apartheid in South Africa. As she was being led away in handcuffs, she shouted to onlookers, "I'm proud to be my father's daughter!"

Jimmy, I'd trade 10 submarines for that.

Martin Snapp's column appears every Thursday in the Voice. Phone Martin at (510) 273-9543; write him c/o Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland CA 94619; or e-mail him at catman1@creative.net

Site

Continued from front page

displayed poster boards of the plan and described their vision for a revitalized Plaza. The concept, as presented, calls for a pedestrian friendly Plaza dominated by a large Lucky grocery store/ Sav-on drug store on the east side. Architect Johnson pointed out the "well-landscaped and wide" pedestrian walkways throughout the Plaza. He noted several open-space areas, small-scale lighting, outdoor dining and planters — "Everything that we need to enhance the pedestrian experience," he said.

Bruce Qualls, Area Real Estate Manager for American Stores, said the current concept "is the product of about 40 site plans." Qualls also said that "this thing can live on its own" with a "minimal amount" of public money. Dorian Bilak, of the El Cerrito Plaza Company, owners of most of the smaller stores in the Plaza, said the idea of locating a Gottschalks store into the plan has been newly added "into the equation," and called it "a very large unknown."

But Gottschalks seemed very known to people in the audience. When Kathleen Perka, who organized a grassroots campaign to bring a department store to the Plaza, approached the lectern to speak, the room erupted in applause. "At least we have gotten their attention," she

told the crowd. "You can tell that Lucky is driving this," she said of the concept plan. By signing her Gottschalks petition (6,558 strong), the public voiced its preference "loud and clear" Perka contended. "We've heard a lot of words," she said before adding that actions "speak louder than words."

Speaker after speaker voiced their opinion about the site concept. Resident Thom Stark wondered if a new Sav-on drug store at the east end of the Plaza would hurt business at the west end Longs. Sewall Gintlerick, manager of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce said the Chamber directors believe Perka's successful petition efforts "prove the people of this area most definitely want a strong and vital shopping center at El Cerrito Plaza, rather than a park-like mall." Gintlerick says the Chamber board feels that city officials and staff should "end their nay-saying on the department store question and take steps to insure that a full-scale department store locates here."

El Cerrito resident Bill Patt got laughter from the audience when he said that he saw the "wrong greenery" — not the right greenery — in the proposed plan. Patt wants to see greenbacks flowing into city coffers from more commercial development instead of excessive landscaping. "I'm a little disappointed

Mail carriers food drive for needy is Saturday

Media stories on hunger typically focus on children, while the plight of their mothers — or grandmothers — receives less attention. This coming Mother's Day will produce more than just thank you's for thousands of local mothers, however. They will receive much-needed food, thanks to the Letter Carriers Food Drive.

On Saturday, May 9, the day before Mother's Day, letter carriers throughout Contra Costa County will pick up food donations door to door as they deliver the mail. The food will be distributed by the Contra Costa Food Bank to elderly women on low incomes and to the families of single mothers, as well as to many other people in need.

It's all part of a nationwide food drive sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers, the

U.S. Postal Service, and the AFL-CIO. Also supporting the effort this year are Campbell's Soup Company, Matheson Trucking, Safeway Food and Drug, and Ozark Trucking. All services are being donated so that there is no cost to taxpayers.

Last year 18 post offices, 800 letter carriers, and 300 other volunteers participated in the one-day food drive in Contra Costa County. More than 150,000 pounds of food were collected locally, while over 72 million pounds were collected nationwide. The goal for Contra Costa this year is 160,000 pounds.

"The drive is a positive experience for everyone," says Jim Thornton, a Martinez letter carrier who helps coordinate the event. "People appreciate the convenience of having food donations picked up in front of their home and letter

carriers enjoy being able to help local people who need it."

Every month the Contra Costa Food Bank and its network of 150 charitable agencies provide food to 30,500 Contra Costa County residents. Children in poverty, homeless families, low-income senior citizens, and many others receive hot meals and food baskets regularly. "This food drive is essential to us," says Larry Sly, executive director of the food bank. "The food collected during the holiday food drive is almost exhausted, while the number of hungry people continues to increase." The most needed food items include canned fruit, vegetables, soup, tuna, beans, rice, peanut butter, baby food, and macaroni and cheese.

Details on the Food Drive in Contra Costa County: 676-7543.

Races

Continued from front page
is today.

A chief beneficiary will be the Albany Children's Center at University Village, which provides day and after school care for some 220 young children while operating on a tight, state-funded budget. "It provides a little extra for our classrooms," said Director Ted Siminowsky, such as art and craft supplies and food for cooking projects. The center hopes to raise \$1,200 or more through tickets to a raffle held at the event.

"It provides the opportunity for these non-profit groups and school classes to make needed funds," said Luoma, pointing out that all prizes were donated by chamber members. In addition to the raffle, Day at the Races will also feature free pony rides and an always-popular Astro Jump for children, and will honor Albany Citizen of the Year Allan Maris, who was selected for his work with groups ranging from the Parks and Recreation Commission to the Friends of Albany Seniors and for the many, many hours he dedicated to youth groups in 1997.

Those who did not receive free tickets in the mail can pick them up at the chamber's Solano Avenue office. Also, as locals will be provided with a special seating section, attendees should enter at the track's



Darlene Bahmanyar and Amelia Chelwell exchange Albany Day at the Races tickets.

north gate via Buchanan Street. "The idea is just to get the community involved with the track," said Tony Selb, Director of Marketing for Golden Gate Fields. Between 800 and 1,200 residents are expected, Selb said.



■ Bill Mann

The Chosen Episodes: OK, here goes. After poring over synopses of the 175 or so "Seinfeld" episodes, I finally pared down a Top Five Episodes list. Plausible honorable mentions. (If you don't watch "Seinfeld," you'll probably be glad when next Thursday's final episode has aired. Please feel free to skip ahead.)

OK, here we go. The first, my favorite episode, is shown that often:

1. **The Limo:** Jerry and George commandeering a limo at JFK for a "Mr. O'Hara" they know isn't deplanning Turns out that O'Hara (George) is a reclusive neo-Nazi en route to address followers at Madison Square Garden. An armed Adolf Lunden type in the limo eyes George suspiciously, telling him, "You don't LOOK like a O'Hara." A beautifully written spoofs of anti-Semitism.

2. **The Bubble Boy:** Picked for its off-the-wall quality, this one has several oddball storylines intertwined. After George and his fiancée Susan meet the fully-grown, sarcastic Bubble Boy, BB makes crude sexual remark to her. Then the "Boy" and George get into a hilarious, angry shouting match over a game of Trivial Pursuit, with George screaming that the misspelled "Mooks," not "Moors," is the correct answer. Jerry tries to get an autographed picture returned at the local diner; meanwhile, Kramer burns down Susan Dad's cottage with a Cuban cigar.

3. **The Contest:** The Emmy-winning favorite of many fans. I especially like this episode because the tale of onanistic forbearance deals with a delicate subject area but is written skillfully and in a circumspect manner. You could watch this with a 7-year-old and not be embarrassed. Bonus points: The lusty Elaine joins the bet.

4. **The Soup Nazi:** "No soup for you!" the lunatic counter martinet barks as he glares at Elaine for not adhering to his strict serving/servility policies. Hard to believe anyone who treats customers this way really exists.

5. **The Outing:** Straights and gays alike loved this episode in which Jerry was "outed" by an NYU student reporter, apparently because he was "thin and neat." "I'm not gay," Jerry protested, quickly adding, "...not that there's anything wrong with that." That last part became a running gag, funnier each time we heard it. Second-best line: Jerry's "I've been outed ... and wasn't even in!" Another superb script.

Honorable Mentions: "The Puffy Shirt," "The O'Man," "Vandelay Industries," in which George's pathological lying was in full flower; "Dearest Puddy," in which we met Elaine's new boyfriend (Patrick Warburton, a hilarious Steven Segal parody who should get his own series); and "The English Patient," in which Elaine did what so many of us wanted to — she stood up in the theatre and exclaimed "This movie sucks!"

We'll miss "Seinfeld," but at least 40 of its episodes are some of the best TV comedy ever written.

Mob Mentality: You've probably already forgotten about CBS' mediocre "The Last Don" last weekend. But don't confuse that with the real thing, NBC's "Witness to the Mob" miniseries debuting Sunday night at 9 and concluding Monday. **Nicholas Turturro** of "NYPD Blue," is superb as mob underboss Sammi "The Bull" Gravano, the guy who "flipped" and whose testimony finally sent John Gotti to the ol' Graybe Hotel. **Robert DeNiro** produced this, urging **Ton Sizemore** ("Relic"), who plays the Teflon Don, to gain 40 pounds for the role. The script is first-rate, and Sizemore and Turturro are superb. Yes, there's violence, but it's never used gratuitously, and the teleplay humanizes these gangsters without glorifying them. I watched the whole thing in one sitting, then went out for calzone.

"90 Minutes on 60 Minutes" is another don't-miss show, this one airing next Wednesday at 9 on KQED (99.9 PBS). "American Masters." It's the first behind-the-scenes look at "60 Minutes" that exec producer **Don Hewitt** has ever allowed. Hewitt invented the TV newsmagazine 30 years ago. He's also one of the most quotable people I've ever interviewed. ("Don doesn't pause for reflection," laughs **Morley Safer** here). You see how the show's five reporters have to fight to get their stories into the show's three available slots each Sunday. You also see America's most feared reporter **Mike Wallace**, cringing in the face of Hewitt's editors. Another strong segment shows Wallace, Hewitt and I speaking candidly about the famous tobacco story two years ago that CBS' lawyers refused to allow on the air. That one still resonates at "60 Minutes." If you're a fellow "60 Minutes" fan, you'll want to watch.

MULTIMEDIA NOTES: Cheap shot of the week goes to KGO-TV's android-like anchor **Dan Noyes** On the 5:00 newscast the other night, the show's resident mensch, **Dr. Dean Edell** was doing his nightly word quiz. The medical term meant "fear of marriage." "That's something YOU don't have to worry about," heh-heh-ed the clueless Noyes, referring to Edell's multiple marriages. Yea, and class and sensitivity is something YOU don't have to worry about, Dan, you old picket chaser, you... Speaking of classless acts, KGO Radio's **Ronn Owens**, meanwhile, has had enough winning with cheap shots from the man he replaced at LA's KABC Radio — **Michael Jackson**, a South African who's as pompous as he is boring. Owens went on the air last Friday and talked about why he'd counterattacked Jackson, something he's rarely done to colleagues. Owens also hired an L.A. publicist to explain his actions... Speaking of KGO Radio, I agree with talk host and San Leandro resident **Brian Copeland**'s recent comments. Copie, who's also a stand-up comic, does KTVU commentaries, and he addressed the issue of next Wednesday's final episode of "Ellen." "She says her show was cancelled because she's a lesbian," said Copeland. "That's ridiculous. She was fired because the show's not funny and the ratings are awful. Ellen said she wasn't going to beat people over the head with gay storylines, then she went and did just that. The show became preachy." As to DeGeneris' claims of AB homophobia, Copeland scoffed, "That's like black people yelling racism for no reason."

Arts & Letters

East Bay Events

Dangerous Dan and Pal

When Dangerous Dan and Ellen Patterson brain stormed their two-person, 67-minute show, they dearly underestimated its audience appeal - for their first performance garnered a standing ovation. Their next stop is Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., for 8 p.m. shows on Friday and Saturday. It's reminiscent of vaudeville with a neat balance of ragtime, humorous & dramatic delivery of the spoken word, a pair of catchy original tunes, train music, and a touch of esoteric jovial palaver for the non-restrictive. Tickets: \$15. Details: 841-5580.

Christy Dana Quartet

Trumpeter Christy Dana and her Quartet present the finest in swinging mainstream jazz on May 17, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Jazzschool, 2375 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley. Her group includes Susan Muscarella on piano, John Wiitala, bass, and Scott Morris, drums. Skilled in the art of tight ensemble playing, the Quartet combines melodic lyricism with harmonic sophistication. Playing fresh, contemporary interpretations of standards, bebop, Latin jazz, and funky blues, they provide the perfect atmosphere for a relaxed Sunday afternoon of listening enjoyment. Seating is limited and advance reservations are recommended. General admission \$12, students/seniors \$10, Jazzschool students \$6. Details: 845-5373.



Inner-city school teacher Kyra Hollis (Susan-Jane Harrison)

'Skylight' at Berkeley Rep

In modern-day Britain, two former lovers meet again and try to come to terms with the past and its consequences in David Hare's "Skylight" at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre through June 21. Post-Show Discussions, May 21, June 12 and June 16. Tickets: \$34.50 to \$45. Tuesday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; May 9, May 14, May 16, May 23, May 28, June 6, June 11 and June 20, 2 p.m.; no show May 15. 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. Details: 845-4700.

Chamber Singers' season finale

Four of California's most talented composers will be featured in the finale of San Francisco Chamber Singers' 1997-98 season, "California Composers - Here & Now" on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. in Kensington. The San Francisco Chamber Singers will sing two works it has commissioned. Kirke Mechem's *Winging Wildly* and David Gardner's *Epiphany*. The 18-member ensemble's acclaimed composer-in-residence, Mark Winges, will be represented by an encore performance of his *1996 Haiku Settings*. In addition, Morten Lauridsen highly-praised *Tridrigali: Six 'Fire Songs' on Italian Renaissance Poems* (1987) will be performed. All four composers will be present at the concert. A post-performance reception for audiences and artists follows the performance and is free to all ticket holders. Tickets: \$16 general, \$12 senior, \$8 student. Details: (415) 771-0052.

Crowden Spring Concert

The Crowden School presents its Annual Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Presbyterian Church (College Ave. Garber streets) Berkeley. Crowden students will perform chamber music as well as works for orchestra and chorus by composers including Mozart, Schumann, Bartok, Hindemith and Prokofiev. Details: 204-8943.

In the big parade

"The Music Man" by Meredith Willson, is at the Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave. in El Cerrito, through May 23. This musical is about the charming con-man Professor Harold Hill who sells out of his City, Iowa, non-existent musical instruments, band uniforms for children with plans to skip out with the money until he falls in love with Marian, the town librarian. Tickets: \$12 general; \$6 children age 18 and under. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; April 26, May 3 and May 17, 2 p.m. Details: 524-0022.

Culture of Awakening

"Toward a Culture of Awakening," an evening lecture by Stephen Hahnel, author of *Buddhism Without Beliefs*, takes place Wednesday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m., Northbrae Community Church (corner of The Alameda and Los Angeles) in Berkeley. This event is a benefit for the Buddhist Peace Fellowship and the Sati Center for Buddhist Studies. Tickets cost \$10 (no one will be turned away for lack of funds) and are available at GAIA Bookstore, Avenue Books and Shambhala Bookstore in Berkeley and Walden Pond Books in Oakland. Tickets are also available from the Buddhist Peace Fellowship Office, 655-6169.

Fun at Tilden

Weekend events at Tilden Park:

See EVENTS on page B-2

Faith Ringgold at UAM this weekend Weaving tales

'Dancing at the Louvre: Faith Ringgold's French Collection and Other Story Quilts' opens at the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum on May 6, and continues through Aug. 30.

By Wanda Sabir

There's just something special about stories made from thread. In her collection, "Dancing at the Louvre," artist Faith Ringgold has taken scraps of memory and sewed together a story that transcends its particulars to embrace a whole nation of people — Africans in America.

The two principal characters in, "Dancing at the Louvre," are Willa Marie—artist's model, cafe owner and her daughter, successful painter, Marlena Truth Simone. Ringgold says that Willa Marie was able to do things that no African-American woman artist had ever been able to do in Paris or America. "In this sense," Ringgold continues, "Willa Marie is my alter ego. For her character I had to rewrite history."

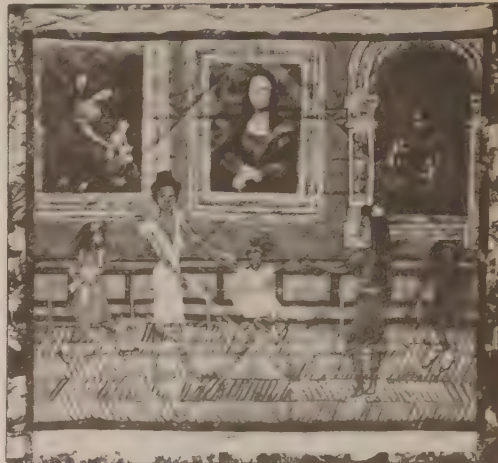
Ringgold rewrites and reexamines art history in "Dancing at the Louvre: Faith Ringgold's French Collection and Other Story Quilts," which opens at the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film

archive on May 6, 1998 and continues through August 30, 1998. In these works the artist deftly interweaves fictional narratives with characters and locations associated with the early 20th-century School of Paris — Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Claude Monet, ...douard Manet, and Vincent van Gogh; and the black New York art scene of the early 1940s.

In striking images etched on colorful, quilted surfaces Ringgold questions the appropriation of African images, patterns and motifs; and their subsequent reappearance in Western art-forms in a running commentary hand-painted along the quilted borders.

This exhibit includes works from two of Ringgold's dynamic series of semi-autobiographical works: The French Collection, begun in 1990, and The American Collection, begun in 1996. The young artist (Ringgold) went to Europe over over 30 years ago to see the art of Europe, in order to determine whether or not she could finally be an artist. Ringgold, who gets first one degree (B.S. in Fine Art—City College of NY in 1957) then another (M.A. in Art at CCNY in 1959), sails for Europe with two daughters and mom shortly thereafter (1961).

Her daughter, Michele Wallace says in a wonderful essay (in the



'The French Collection Part 1: Dancing at the Louvre,' a 1991 acrylic on canvas with pieced fabric border by Faith Ringgold.

exhibit catalog) titled "The French Collection, Mamma Jones, Mommy Fay, and Me." "One of the main points of 'The French Collection' for me is precisely its celebration of the fact that Faith Ringgold managed to paint her own path with virtually no specific role models or guidelines. Instead she drew on a willy-nilly hodgepodge of role models, some of whom certainly didn't deliberately choose to be her inspiration (the French painters); others from black history (such as Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Mary McLeod Bethune, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Ella Baker) who

had no apparent idea about how to be a visual artist; and still others from her family, in particular her great-great grandmother Susie Shannon and her great-great-grandmother Betsey Bingham, both of whom were slaves and quilters, and her mother Mamma Jones, who had wanted to be a dancer and who settled for being a Harlem fashion designer—a more practical choice than being an artist.

"[My sister] Barbara and I had always been taught we were special, perhaps to overcompensate for the message

See FAITH on page B-2

Come to the Cabaret at LaVal's

By Carol Egan

The thought of putting on a large scale musical like "Cabaret" in the cavern known as LaVal's Subterranean, a basement about the size of a large living room, boggles the mind. Shades of Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland. With its cast of 23 and orchestra of 22, it takes a lot of imagination and chutzpah to pull off such a feat, but director/producer Ben Rimalower, founder of "BareStage Productions," UC Berkeley's only student-run theater company, has managed to do so with considerable success.

Rimalower, an undergraduate in the Department of Dramatic Art/Center for Theater Arts, has shown his talent and ambition from the beginning of his university studies. His

Directing a play in Zellerbach is quite a luxury compared to doing a musical in LaVal's Subterranean.

freshman year he began teaching Musical Theater Workshop and, since founding BareStage in 1996, he has produced and directed four works, including the musical "Into the Woods." Last summer he also directed Woody Allen's "Death" in Zellerbach Playhouse.

Directing a play in Zellerbach is, however, quite a luxury compared to doing a musical in LaVal's Subterranean. Descending into the dark, dank atmosphere beneath the pizza parlor, the audience literally enters the decadent Kit Kat Klub itself, becoming participants in the lascivious goings-on in 1930s Berlin. Though most cast members are far younger and (hopefully) more innocent than their onstage characters, they manage to create the properly improper ambience, albeit they look a little more like they belong on Castro Street than in Berlin.

Under the direction of Musical Director, John Kendall Bailey, the Berkeley Lyric Opera Orchestra plays the well-known score with energy and pizzazz, if not always with tonal accuracy. Seated to one side of the "stage" area, their volume miraculously never overwhelms the singers, which says a lot about the quality of vocal work in this production.

The cast is headed by Claudio

Medeiros in the role of the MC, made famous by Joel Grey. From the very opening bars of "Willkommen," we know we're in for a good time under the evil guidance of our Berlin tour guide, Medeiros. He introduces us to the frequenters of the Kit Kat Klub, characters of all sexual persuasions, and often several at once. Medeiros presents a Mephistophelian figure as he manipulates the club's occupants on both sides of the fourth wall. Costumed in a range of outfits from a conservative three-piece suit to a black feathered boa, sequined belt and skin tight pants (costumes by Jennifer Behar), he presents a chameleon whose colors change with the mood of the moment, an apt metaphor for the Germany of pre-Hitler times.

The lead heroine of the musical is Sally Bowles, an English cabaret performer who has found her 15 minutes of fame at the Kit Kat Klub. As performed by Marissa Kamin, this Sally is constantly inebriated and usually undecided whether to laugh or cry. Her character suffers from an overall tendency throughout this production to costume and make up the women much less brashly than the men, which brings us back to Castro Street versus 1930s Berlin. The image of a successful and exotic cabaret artist was thus visually defeated from the start. Nevertheless, Kamin came through admirably, thanks to her excellent singing and acting skills.

The role of American writer Cliff Bradshaw is performed by Scott Rabe, whose lanky body conveys the awkwardness of the naive young man about to be indoctrinated into a whole new world. His sensitivity to the character's sexual ambivalence brings to the role the depth and complexity necessary to reflect the musical's origins in Christopher Isherwood's "The Berlin Stories."

Director Rimalower was not being simply chauvinistic when he cast his sister Lucy Rimalower in the role of Fräulein Schneider. Though she is far younger than the character (as any university stu-

See CABERET on page B-2

'It could happen to anyone'

Student documentary examines hate crimes done to Asian Americans

By Kevin Huang

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported almost a year ago the tragic incident of Sylvia Kim, an Asian-American woman over 50 years of age, who was attacked by a white man while returning home from Union Square one night in autumn. For a year when hate crime motivated by racial differences rose to its highest in years, some say, the Sylvia Kim incident and other instances seem to have receded from public debate all but too rapidly. As Kim later recalled the moment when she had fallen to the ground, out of fear she had exclaimed to the man, "My mother is not Chinese!"

A group of Berkeley students has undertaken a documentary project to explore the impact of these traumas in the lives of hate crime victims. Using Kim's story and the experiences of two other women as the framework in which they examine some of the greater social issues underlying these instances, the work "My Mother is not Chinese," titled after Kim's remark, is a work of courage and self-reflection that confronts the identity of not only the victims but the filmmakers themselves. In less than 30 minutes the film takes one through the heart of San Francisco, as images of urban landscape are

See REALITY on page B-2

Free Folk Festival here

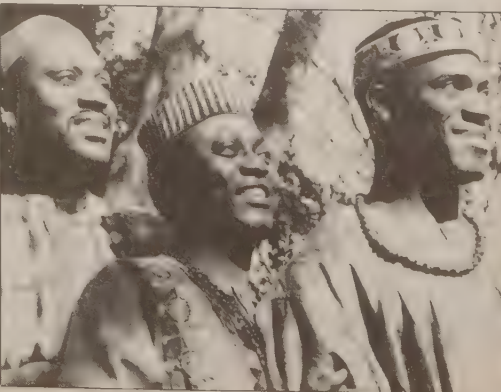
The third annual Berkeley Free Folk Festival Saturday and Sunday from noon to 11 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, Cedar and Bonita in Berkeley. The free event features a display of acrylic paintings and drawings of folksingers by Tom Siporin, performances by Utah Phillips, Oakland's Gospel Messengers, and dozens of performers. There will also be a performance by the Berkeley Players of Siporin's *The Marx Brothers go to the O.K. Murder Media Circus* (Judge Chico Ito presiding) on Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

This year's festival has been dedicated by founder Jessica Bryan to David Nadel, the tragi-

cally slain former Ashkenaz owner. Details: 843-3810.



Above, Prosecutor Groucho and Judge Chico Ito perform Saturday at 1 p.m. Below, the Nigerian Brothers are part of Sunday's musical lineup.



Berkeley artists exhibit at SF Camerawork

By Carol Egan

Two Berkeley residents are among the nearly two dozen artists represented in the current exhibit on display at SF Camerawork in San Francisco. Entitled "Feed," the exhibit presents a varied collection of work that takes a unique and sometimes humorous approach to food through photographs, film, video, performance and new media. The exhibition is supplemented by multi-disciplinary programming including film screenings, performance events and a Tupperware party.

Participating in the May 1 through June 13 exhibit are Jan Camp and Mary Curtis Ratcliff, both residents of

Berkeley. Jan Camp works in photography and mixed media has shown widely throughout the state. Her detailed still life studies explore the magic of inanimate objects and transform the ordinary to the extraordinary.

Mary Curtis Ratcliff is a sculptor whose works bear witness to her particular interests in women's themes and materials. She has exhibited her work throughout the Bay Area and in major cities across the country.

San Francisco Camerawork is located at 115 Natoma (between Mission and Howard, 2nd and Montgomery). Exhibit hours are Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Reality

Continued from page B-2

interspersed with the victims' accounts of having survived from the assaults' atrocities.

Initially made as a film project for a film-making class in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley, the film by Huy Chau, Ronnie Cheung, Joan Huang (no relation this reporter), Maryam Kashani, Sabrina Lin, and Thyrle Thai in its enhanced and condensed form was featured as part of the Representing Reality: UCB Documentaries series on April 2 at Pacific Film Archive.

"The article in the Chronicle about Kim made me concerned that that although there are writings about her, we aren't hearing more about it," said Huang. "And if you ask people about the incident they wouldn't even have a clue. As a whole there really is not too much knowledge about hate crimes in the Asian American community and among Asian Americans."

The three women interviewed in the film: Sylvia Kim, who as a result of the assault underwent a hip replacement; Hoa Dang, a Vietnamese-American who has been repeatedly threatened by her neighbors while living in the public housing at Alice Griffiths, and Marjion Kashani, a family member of one of the filmmakers who has herself experienced instances of hate crime. In Sabrina Lin's words, the project was an experience in itself by which she opened her eyes to the lives of different people.

"It could happen to anyone, it just depends on how close you are to the margin," said Lin. "Because you are educated, you can speak English, maybe your situa-

tion is better than someone else's, or because you surround yourself with certain kinds of people who are more open-minded and who accept you for who you are—none of these means that those people who are like us and these things which we didn't think about don't exist."

"We just wanted to have a knowledge about what's happening to our people in our community," said Thyrle Thai. "And I think that especially for people of color this isn't just about the Asian Americans, but all people of color."

The film opens with a series of eclectic shots that take one to the actual locales where these events took place. The three persons interviewed move toward and away from the focus of the film, but whether they are speaking casually about their experiences or looking away from the camera, the fatalism in their voices seems to imply anything but reconciliation. Juxtaposed with the interviews are footage of the group Pearl Ubungen Dancers and Musicians in practice. In the first moment the lead dancer seems to have begun her movements with an elegant air; but in the next moment as the movements are interrupted infrequently by the still-frame editing, they take on a sense of agitation, as though the feelings which she seeks to express could never be fully consummated.

The imminent threat coming from a hostile culture, or sympathies toward the victims are not the only themes underlying the work. More importantly, by probing into the lives of these victims the filmmakers find themselves confronted with the questions of their own relations to the Asian-American experience, culture, and

Events

Continued from page B-1

• "Singular Spots: Boardwalk," May 9, 1 p.m. Learn about a manmade lake and marsh and the problems and benefits of caring for them.

• Western Bluebird Family Hike, May 10, 11 a.m. A hike up to the ridge-top and back on the lookout for bluebirds and chicks. For age 8 and older. Free.

• Free. Take Cañon Drive off Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley. Details: 525-2233.

Bilingual 'Butterfly'

The Darvag Arts Foundation presents Bijan Mofid's "The Butterfly," a bilingual production for children in Farsi and English, May 15 through 31.

Tickets: \$12 general; \$7 chil-

dren. Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. 3280 Adeline St., Berkeley. Details: 466-5299.

'Sisters and Brothers in crime'

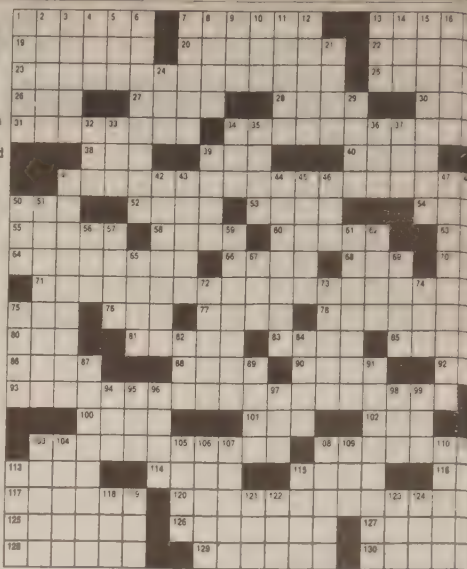
On Sunday May 17 M.C. Newburn Books presents "Sisters and Brothers in Crime" with plots aplenty in the annual Mystery Week Postmortem (i.e., the last day of Mystery Week party). Look for authors Susan Dunlop, Janet Dawson, Linda Grant, Jaki Girdner, Margaret Leckey, J.D. Knight, Richard Lupoff, Rick Riordan and others. They will be signing autographs. The event takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. at 950 San Pablo Ave. in Albany.

New York Times Magazine Puzzle

THE USUAL SUSPECTS

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS	55 Moonshine	113 Get wind of	16 Exiter's exclamation
1 Discussed thoroughly, with "out"	58 Cautious stock inv.	114 Mountain lake	17 Hint
7 Florentine family name	60 Spring bloomer	115 Slapstick ammo	18 Nephew of Cain
13 Flattened at the poles	63 Op. —	116 Suffix with duct	21 Where Dick Button won gold
19 Diffuse	64 Botanist's workplace	117 Theseus' land	24 Epitaph starter
20 Medium-sweet sherry	66 74-Down's opposite	120 Counterintuitive concoction	29 S.D.I. concern
22 Introduction	68 Constriction worker?	125 First Olympic Hall of Fame gymnast	32 "Phooey!"
23 Song from "Holiday Inn"	70 6-pointers	126 Under political attack, maybe	33 Fury
25 Meteorological menace	71 Theme of this puzzle	127 Plan	34 Bud, to Lou
26 Holiday in Hue	75 Small shot	128 Stalk	35 Business biggie
27 Skyrocket	76 Landed a haymaker	129 Cartoon cat	36 Ford Sterling played one
28 Bamako is its capital	77 Sked guesses	130 Oater groups	37 Exiter's exclamation
30 Univ. awards	78 Quits working	DOWN	39 Chilean president, 1964-70
31 Modest bathing suit	80 Name of 13 popes	1 Popular book genre	41 Delicious
34 Lustrous hue	81 "Iceland" star	2 Whey-faced	42 Holy war
36 Notre Dame name	83 Cager Kukoc	3 Whack	43 Starwort, e.g.
39 Feature of some modems	85 React to a bad joke, perhaps	4 In great demand	44 Most difficult to believe
40 99-Down, Down Under	86 Gore's grp.	5 Journal addendum?	45 Butinsky
41 Off-scripted Barones Orzco novel	88 Infidel Joey	6 Cut	46 Feeling lousy
50 Smash letters	90 Warehouse supply: Abbr.	7 Code name	47 Chopin works
52 Limerick language	92 Shoe box marking	8 Medicine Nobel	48 Exhibits, basically
53 One of the Reiners	93 Peaked	9 Nobel	49 Answer to "Shall we?"
54 Gospel music award	100 "Hot Diggity" singer	10 "Just Another Girl on the —" (1993 drama)	50 "Put a lid on it!"
		11 Cause for pause	51 Kind of float
		12 Soul singer	52 Revolutionary name
		13 Stadium cheer	53 Pawn
		14 — Paese cheese	54 Speaker's spot
		15 Fred Mertz, notably	55 Putting up with
			62 Dictionary abbr.
			63 "Here comes trouble!"
			67 Inc. relative
			69 Have — (overreact)



72 Open-mouthed quip	91 Slalom maneuver	105 Stops up	112 School cliq, maybe
73 "A votre —!"	94 Henri or Pierre, e.g.	106 Solicits, with "up"	113 Kind of seal
74 Chabrier's "Le Roi maigré"	95 Roadie's load	107 Map of the Aleutians, usually	115 Ready for surgery
75 Palace or prison, e.g. Abbr.	96 Shutout	108 Fussbudget	118 Whisper, usually
76 "I told you so!"	97 Dress (up)	109 House mem.	119 Cape —
77 D.S.M. recipient	98 Shepherd's locale	110 What anglers want that campers don't	121 Chi precede
78 "Singing journalist" Phil	99 Stripling	111 "Mr. Belvedere" actress Graff	122 Humorous lo
79 Guards, collectively	103 Nursery rhyme		123 Year abroad
80 Starbucks serving	104 Starbucks		124 Most letter, D.C.

Faith

Continued from page B-2

of inferiority attached to our race in our native land. Now this trip [to Europe on the S.S. *Liberte*] seemed divine confirmation of that. I can't recall before or since being around so many white people who seemed so happy to see me."

While Ringgold was at City College of New York, great African American artists like Romare Bearden, Norman Lewis, Lois Mailou Jones and Elizabeth Catlett were not a part of the curriculum, so in 1950 when Ringgold decided on her vocation, the only black artist she knew beyond local legend was Jacob Lawrence (the first African American artist to have a major exhibit at the New York Museum of Modern Art).

In her wonderful story quilts, Ringgold's engaging characters take us on a romp through Western European social and political art world that literally leaves one's sensibilities reeling. Note "We Came To America" (The American Collection: #1) and "Born in a Cotton Field" (TAC: #3) juxtaposed with "Dinner at Gertrude Stein's" (The French Collection, Part II: #19) and "Matisse's Model (The French Collection, Part I: #5). Ringgold has painted an extremely comprehensive picture.

One of my favorite scenes is "Dancing at the Louvre," the first

panel in the series. The fictional Willa Marie is dancing with a friend named Marcia and her three children in front of the "Mona Lisa." Willa Marie writes, "Dear Aunt Melissa / Marcia and her three little girls took me dancing at the Louvre. I thought I was taking them to see the Mona Lisa. You've never seen anything like this. Well, the French hadn't either. Never mind Leonardo da Vinci and Mona Lisa, Marcia and her three girls were the show."

Ringgold does this often—drops cultural icons on marble floors just to hear the echoes. This is one of the main reasons why the story quilt is such an appropriate setting for Ringgold's work—deceptively simple, each image is only one facet of multi-layered meaning.

This Saturday, May 9, Faith Ringgold will be at The Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. From noon until 3 p.m., visitors will be able to have Ringgold's beloved children's books, such as "Tar Beach," Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky," and "My Dream of Martin Luther King" signed by the author in the Museum lobby. Admission to the book-signing is included with regular Museum admission.

Then at 4 p.m., that same afternoon, Faith Ringgold continues her day-long visit by presenting the lecture, "More Than Thirty Years Making Art" in the George Gund Theatre at the UC Berkeley Art Museum. The artist

will show slides of her various work, which includes sculpture, mixed media pieces, as well as her quilt stories. Tickets for the lecture are \$8 general; \$6 BAM/PFA members; \$4 students and limited income. Advance tickets recommended—call 642-5249.

On Sunday, May 10, Mother's Day, admission is to the Museum is free all day for mothers and their children. Guided tours to "Dancing at the Louvre: Faith Ringgold's French Collection and Other Story Quilts" are at noon, 1, 2, 3, and 4 p.m.

The University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive is located at 2626 Bancroft Way, just below College Avenue near the UC Berkeley campus. Gallery hours: Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11-5; Thursday 11-9. General admission is \$6; Seniors and students 12-18 years \$4; BAM/PFA members, UC Berkeley students and children under 12 free; group tour member \$3 (to arrange call 642-5188). Free hours: Thursday 11-12 noon, and 5-9. For recorded information call 642-0808, or www.bampfa.berkeley.edu.

The last time I saw an extensive display of Ringgold's work was in 1992 at Mills College in Oakland. So even though this UC San Diego Professor is bi-coastal, she doesn't travel to Northern California often. Don't miss this rare treat.

Cabaret

Continued from page B-1

dent would likely be), the power of her voice and her strong physical presence creates a very believable aging, bitter and lonely German spinster.

Playing opposite her in the role of Herr Schultz is Brian Rosen, the only non-student in the production. An older man (all of 26), Rosen brings a sweetness, naivety and gentleness to the character who represents the Jewish victims

of the Nazis. Rosen also must be given credit for the excellent job he has done in his capacity as Vocal Director of the production.

Further memorable performances are delivered by Meg Hemphill in the role of Fräulein Kost, the raunchiest of all the girls, Kit Zorsch as the young Nazi follower, Ernst Ludwig, and Charles Boyle as Bobby, one of the most outrageous drag queens at the Kit Kat Klub. Boyle also serves as

Dance Captain on the production which was choreographed by Krista Denia and Jaime Ben-Azay.

"Cabaret" plays through May 17 at LaVal's Subterranean 1834 Euclid Ave. in Berkeley. Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m.

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Panthers' Mack: *this close to 50*

St. Mary's triple jumper after next milestone

By Jeff Sepulveda

It seems hard to believe, but little more than a year ago, St. Mary's High senior track star Jerriod Mack was just another triple jumper.

"I used to think that jumping 45 or 46 feet was the best I could do. That was my goal," says Mack.

A year later, with a slew of meet records and outstanding athlete honors and a state best triple jump of 49-8-1/2 so far this season, Mack is brimming with confidence and no longer sees a ceiling for his talents.

With the magic number of 50 feet only a few inches in the sand from his personal best, it would



'File '98 Photos by Jeff Landquist
St. Mary's Jerriod Mack, above, soars on one of his record-setting jumps; below, he focuses intently before jumping.

seem to be a natural focal point.

But Mack believes it is only a matter of which meet will see that milestone fall this season. With Mack, it is not a matter of "if," but "when" his personal milestone will fall.

"That will come, there's no doubt," he says. "I might be closer

to 52 feet by June."

But according to Mack, arbitrary distance goals are no longer his motivation. He wants to win.

"I step out there to beat people," he says. "That's what it's all about."

Winning has been what Mack has been about so far this season. He won the long jump and triple

'I step out there to beat people. That's what it's all about.'

— JERRIOD MACK

jump at the prestigious Stanford Invitational in March, setting a personal best, meet record, and state best with a leap of 49-8-1/2. For his efforts, Mack was named outstanding field athlete of the meet.

A week later, he duplicated the feat at the no less prestigious OAL Invitational, winning the triple jump by nearly 2-1/2 feet. Again he claimed outstanding field athlete honors.

Two weeks after that, Mack won the triple jump and high jump at the Hampton-Phillips Invitational in San Jose. More outstanding field athlete honors.

The only blip on Mack's radar screen this season happened two weeks ago in the prep triple jump event at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia. Troubled by wind con-

See MACK, page B4

Mahali leads SM's hordes of heroines Lady Panthers win ACCAL

By Jeff Sepulveda

After defeating Encinal by a single point in last year's Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League dual meet, the St. Mary's High girls track team was prepared to go all out to defeat the Jets this season.

The Lady Panthers did just that last Thursday and crushed visiting Encinal, 113-77, and Alameda, 113-29, and put a lock on the ACCAL regular-season crown that almost escaped them last year.

The Panthers had a horde of heroines, but no star shone brighter than senior Raanee Mahali.

Mahali went head-to-head with some of the best sprinters in the state, and more than held her own, winning the 100 meters and long jump, while claiming second in the 200.

The mighty Jets sprint team was expected to dominate that portion of the meet, but Mahali had other ideas. Facing off against the Encinal's highly touted duo of Sharita Reed and Michelle Armstrong in the 100 and 200 meters and long jump, Mahali clocked a personal best 11.9 to nip Reed's 12.0.

Reed came back to win the 200 in 24.3 with Mahali edging Armstrong for second place with a 24.9.

Mahali had a clear advantage in the long jump, however, and her experience and superior technique showed as her leap of 16-8 easily outdistanced Armstrong's 15-1. Reed finished fourth behind SM's Desirea English.

Mahali's long jump triumph began SM's sweep of the field events. Junior Rosie Aikens claimed double victories in the discus and shot put, throwing a season best 126 feet in the discus — a whopping 30 feet further than the second place competitor from Alameda. English added first place in the triple jump with a leap of 35-2.

Spring Harris starred in her first meet after more than a month spent recovering from a foot injury. Harris won the high jump with a mark of 5-2, and was pressed into service in the 800 meters and, of all things, the shot put.

She placed fifth in the 800, which was used as a conditioning event more than anything, but managed a 30-1 throw in the shot put to claim second place in her

debut in the event this year.

"I had only practiced the shot for two days," said Harris. "I haven't thrown it since I was a freshman. I have the yell down, but that's about it."

Jackie Bryant and Ellen O'Dea led SM's distance charge. Bryant won the 1,600, running 5:51, while finishing second behind Encinal's Ebony Kirtan in the 800. O'Dea took second in the 1,600 before running 12:46 to win the 3200.

The only miscue for the Panthers could have been a costly one. With Encinal not running the 400 meter relay in order to have



Spring Harris returned from an injury after a month.

its members eligible to compete in more individual events, SM was an overwhelming favorite to earn an easy first-place finish.

However, a bad exchange led to SM's disqualification after Encinal had all but conceded the points to the Panthers.

Mahali stepped forward to take the blame for the blunder. "It was all my fault," said the soft-spoken senior. "We had been working on our steps and we thought it would be a good time to try something new. I left early before I got the

See SM, page B4

Cougars keep clawing way up ACCAL standings

Jelani Harper

Don't look now, but Albany's softball team may just turn out to be the surprise of the Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League.

The scrappy Cougars (10-5, 5-2 CAL) are currently tied for third place with El Cerrito. Not bad for a team with a first-year coach and a handful of seniors.

"I'm surprised the team's learned win as quickly as they did," remarked coach Josh Freeman, who last year coached Albany's junior varsity. "We've always had a ton of talent, it's just been about getting guys to play together, which we've done a good job of doing."

Against St. Mary's Monday, however, in which the Cougars and themselves victims of a seven-game losing slump, they could only manage four hits. As a result, Albany's five-game winning streak unravelled with the 6-0 loss to the Panthers.

As if six innings of Panthers win-Max Slenderbroek's hardest throw wasn't enough, the Cougars had to contend with the mystery of the floating strike zone.

Ah, the mystery of the floating strike zone — the game within the

game where batters have to guess how high or low the umpire is going to call strikes, because he keeps changing the height of the zone — has even reached down to prep baseball.

Evidently the Cougars didn't do so good at this one because a number of them got called for strikes that seemed exceedingly high or low.

"I've never seen more poor officiating," said Freeman, somewhat good-naturedly after the loss. "The only thing they (the umpires) did good was hide the coin they were using to decide the calls. But it wasn't the umps that beat us today, it was letting the umps get to us that beat us. They got in our head and it's hard to hit when you don't know where the strike zone is."

The Cougars best chance to score occurred early in the second inning when starting pitcher Ted Smith-Peterson led off with a double to center field, followed by a single from sophomore Jon Ball. Smith-Peterson got to third, then was thrown out at the plate trying to tag when Tim Onweller fled out to right.

See COUGARS, page B4



Berkeley lacrosse coach Chris Sparhawk makes a point to Dan Guten in a recent game.

Jackets now know Palo Alto Berkeley faces Titans in lacrosse playoffs

By Jelani Harper

Watching this year's Northern California Junior Lacrosse Association playoffs will be a little like standing in a crowded bingo hall on Friday night — there's no telling who will win.

In the opening round of the playoffs Wednesday No. 5 seeded Berkeley (7-4) was scheduled to play No. 4 Palo Alto (7-4), which beat the Yellowjackets by two goals last March.

However, the Jackets were the only team to hand top seed Bishop

O'Dowd (10-1) a loss when they beat the Dragons, also by two goals a couple of weeks ago. The winner of Berkeley/Palo Alto game faces the Dragons at their home field this Thursday.

So basically, all three teams can stake their claim for the title.

"We're just going to take things one game at a time, first we'll deal with Palo Alto and then we'll worry about O'Dowd," explained Jackets coach Chris Sparhawk about his team's playoff strategy. "When we play Palo Alto we'll be smarter be-

cause we know more about them this time around, so we should give them a good game."

The Jackets last game with the Titans was a high-intensity affair where the Jackets jumped out to a 9-4 halftime lead before finally succumbing, 13-11. The Jackets gave up eight straight goals to start the second half, but they were playing without starting goalkeeper Santiago Lerma, who was out with a chest injury.

See JACKETS, page B6

In 1 game, Albany puts everything together

By Jelani Harper

Albany's softball team is showing signs of improvement.

During last week's 14-2 route over St. Elizabeth, that was ended after five innings because of the 10-run rule, the Cougars (3-8, 2-4 Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League) sure didn't look like a team that was struggling to break .500. Their bats were working like magic and the defense was tight.

"Today we stayed focused all the way through the game, whereas before we would not watch certain situations and that would get us into trouble," said Albany coach Ray Mejia after the win. "We were more on top of things today and saw positive results."

Such as sophomore pitcher Emilie Louie and shortstop Audrey Raya both gunning runners at the plate to escape a bases loaded situation in the top of the fifth inning. Or senior first baseman Janet Bower turning a solo double play in the fourth.

Second baseman Teresa Diaz certainly took advantage of her situation when she homered with two

See ALBANY, page B6

Gauchos swim for close ACCAL shave

By Jeff Sepulveda

Crunch time. For the El Cerrito swim team, the months spent in the pool preparing are about to pay off as the Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League championship meet is this Saturday at noon at Chabot College.

The regular season was a successful one for both the EC boys and girls. Two wins last week over Salesian and De Anza left the boys (6-2) in third place, trailing only Alameda and Piedmont. The EC girls also stand in third going into Saturday's meet after a split with Salesian and De Anza.

EC coach Blythe Lucero believes that her team is ready to compete. "We're really high for

this," she said. "We look good going in. Our workouts look great. The kids are really focused and thinking about swimming."

Several Gauchos will vie for North Coast Section. Junior Bryan Lam is close to qualifying in the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke, while Nick Umemoto and Zoe Talbot are within tenths of a second from qualifying in the 50 freestyle, while Hans Lou is close in the 500 free.

Heading into Saturday's meet, Talbot is seeded first in ACCAL in the 50 free, while Umemoto is the second seed in the boys 50 free.

Other strong contenders for ACCAL honors singled out by Lucero are Juliette Mia in the 50 free and 100 backstroke, and brothers Lester and Matthew Wong in

the 100 breast.

The Gauchos regular season has been hampered by a freak injury to star Bryan Lam, who had a severe foot injury when he cut his heel on a flip turn more than a month back. The wound required eight stitches, and Lam, EC's best all-around swimmer, has remained competitive, but hasn't competed at anywhere near full capacity.

"It was a serious injury," said Lucero. "The heel split open. There was blood everywhere. He still has the stitches in. He's been undefeated in league in individual events, and he can't even kick."

In last week's meets, the EC boys won handily, thrashing De Anza, 71-17, and Salesian, 53-40. Lam was the star, as he won both the 50 and 100 free and 100 back and com-

peted on the Gauchos 400 meter relay team which split first and second.

In the girls competition, a depleted EC team split the three-team meet by beating De Anza, 48-47, and losing to Salesian, 52-42. The Gauchos competed without seniors Mia, Jenny Lam, and Lindsey Burd.

"We would have won if all those girls were there," said Lucero.

The Gauchos plan to have a "cut and shave" party this week, where team members will shave off body hair in order to streamline their path through the pool.

Hopefully for EC fans this will be the final impetus to shave those tenths of a second off times and qualify for NC honors.

Cougars SM

Continued from page B3

Smith-Peterson, however, was destined to have more success at bat than on the mound or on the base paths. The lefty gave up five runs and five walks in four innings before being replaced by fellow junior Zach Bogart in the fifth.

"Ted's been having a problem with control all year long; it has to do with his mechanics mostly," remarked Freeman. "He likes to throw hard but sometimes he throws too hard. But he kept us in the ball game, five runs isn't too big a lead in a baseball game. We just couldn't hit anything today."

On Friday, the Cougars will have the opportunity to redeem themselves when they take to the road to play De Anza. After that they'll only have two more games against EC and Kennedy, so now is as good a time as any to rev up their game for the playoffs.

Continued from page B-3

pass from Sarisa Ransom. "I'm glad it didn't hurt us too much."

As for her victory in the 100-meter relay, Mahali was overjoyed. "I loved it. Encinal blew us away at the OJ Relays. I did my best and PR'ed my time. I'm glad I helped the team."

The impressive performance against Encinal continued a strong surge by Mahali in recent weeks, she has lowered her personal best times in the 100 and 200 four times in the last month. Mahali kept running strong in capturing the 100-meter title at last Friday's Be Warren Relays at Acalanes High. Mahali also anchored the Panthers' first place 400 meter relay squad.

Next up for the Panthers is the Saturday's Meet of Champions Invitational in Sacramento. After that, SM will compete in next weekend's ACCAL championships.

Mack

Continued from page B3

ditions, Mack scratched on his first two attempts. But his third try brought a leap of 49-5, which was nosed on the last jump to leave him in second place at the most prestigious amateur meet in North America. His 49-5 would have placed him eighth in the collegiate competition at the meet.

Though it is still quite early in the season and he is nowhere near peaking, Mack is still stinging from the defeat in Philly.

"Basically, I lost," he says. "Nobody remembers who took second place. I could have won. I should have won. But coulda, woulda, shoulda isn't good enough."

Mack attributes his success and incredible improvement to working with SM assistant coach Jeff Rogers, a former All-American high jumper at Cal.

"He is an excellent coach," says Mack. "He's the only reason I'm jumping this far. I improved eight feet in one year, from 41 feet as a

sophomore to 49 feet last year."

Rogers acknowledges his role, but said Mack deserves the credit. "I got him to understand the event. To know what a triple jump was supposed to look like, feel like,"



File '98 Jeff Lindquist
Jerriod Mack: 'Nobody remembers who took 2nd.'

Rogers explains. "I worked with him on his form and developed the drills, reinforced the technique. But I never thought he'd be jumping this far this early. He worked at it

and did the drills. And then it just clicked."

Last year it clicked just in time for Mack to join the prep track stratosphere. He cleared 47 feet to win the North Coast Section Meet of Champions and qualify for state competition.

As the pressure increased, Mack thrived. He jumped 48-10 to qualify for the finals. Then he jumped 49-3 to take third in the state as a junior.

This year, Mack is the favorite to win the state triple jump title, and he has an excellent chance to qualify for the finals in the long jump as well.

But as sweet as such accomplishments would be, Mack has an even bigger goal in mind.

"I want to qualify for the Junior National team. That's my goal."

Mack's accomplishments so far have made him eligible to compete for a spot on the team, but he must perform well at the qualifying meet in June in order to cement a spot.

Rogers, for one believes Mack

is right on track.

"Jerriod's not close to peaking yet," he says. "The month of June is what we're working toward. Right now he's doing good interval work, but we'll taper back as June approaches and the state meet and Junior Nationals come up."

Jerriod's reward for all his efforts besides fame and glory? How about a full athletic scholarship. Who wouldn't offer one to a prep athlete whose PR as a junior would have ranked him in the top 20 in the nation at last year's NCAA championship?

But Mack says the field has been narrowed to one: Rogers' alma mater, Cal. "I'm just waiting for them to get me the letter of intent," he said last Thursday. "But that's where I'm going."

While Cal may be right around the corner for the future economics student, it represents a step up into the academic big leagues. Bears track fans can rest easy, though. Jerriod Mack is already right at home in the who's who of track and field.



File '98 Jeff Lindquist
St. Mary's Jerriod Mack in full flight in recent triple jump.

More sports
on page
B6

Fax rosters to the Sports Editor
at 339-4066.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

GOOD MAY 8 - MAY 14 ONLY
- GRAND LAKE THEATER -
GRAND AVENUE 452-3556

★ Woo 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15
★ Barney's Great Adventure 12 noon only
★ Spike & Mike's Festival of Animation Fr-Tues (End Tuesday 5:15) 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:30
★ Object of My Affection 1:45, 4:45, 6:45, 9:15
★ In God's Hands 12:45, 3:45, 5:15, 7:30, 9:30

★ The Player's Club Wed-Thurs 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30 Fr-Tues 8:45p.m. only

- OAKS -
SOLANO AVE., BERKELEY, 526-1836

★ Shooting Fish Fr/Mon-Thur 7:15, 9:30; Sat/Sun 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30

★ In God's Hands Fr/Mon-Thur 7:30; Sat/Sun 1, 3, 5, 7, 9

STARTS FRIDAY MAY 15: QUEST FOR CAMELOT

- ORINDA -
ORINDA EXIT AT HWY 24, 254-9060

★ Deep Impact 1, 4, 7, 9:35
★ City of Angels 11:45, 2, 4:15, 6:30, 9
★ Les Miserables 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:15

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As Good As It Gets... 6 p.m.
L.A. Confidential... 9 p.m.
(U) The Wedding Singer... 7 p.m.
(U) Wild Things... 9:45 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1998
The Wedding Singer... 3 p.m.
(U) As Good As It Gets... 3:30 p.m.
Good Vibrations: Salute to Masturbation... 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.
The Wedding Singer... 7 p.m.
(U) Wild Things... 9:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 1998
Sydney Byrd: Private Eye... 3 p.m.
(U) L.A. Confidential... 3:30 p.m.
L.A. Confidential... 9 p.m.
(U) The Wedding Singer... 7 p.m.
(U) Wild Things... 9:45 p.m.

MON.-THURS., MAY 11-14, 1998
As Good As It Gets... 6 p.m.
L.A. Confidential... 9 p.m.
(U) The Wedding Singer... 7 p.m.
(U) Wild Things... 9:45 p.m.

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Albany - Berkeley Girls Softball League

By Michael Blake

As the 1998 Albany-Berkeley Girls Softball League progresses, the girls are learning the old saying about how defense wins games. The bats are still resounding loudly, but the pitchers and fielders are beginning to make their contributions decisive, as many of this week's game reports attest.

YOUNGER DIVISION
Stutz Olive Oil Wildcats 24
Mason McDuffie Mighty Ducks 22

On a cool, wet morning in Codornices Park, Stutz Olive Oil Wildcats claimed their 2nd victory of 4 games this season. Ducks lead batter Joan Cannon hit a high fly for a base hit. Powerful base hits followed by Lil Woods-Kridle, Emily Hecht, Aria Betts and Anna Kalkanis-Ellis. At the top of the 2nd, Judith Joy and Emma Fane slammed base hits into the outfield. Ellis' strong fielding prevented a double from becoming a homer.

At the top of the 3rd, Aria Betts, Judith Joy and Evan Troost all added to the Duck's scoring. Aggressive fielding in the bottom of the 3rd led to 3 outs; 1 by Sophia Lewis and 2 unassisted outs on 3rd by Evan Troost. Powerful hits by Woods-Kridle and Fane led off the 4th. Alyse Mueller followed with an RBI. Wildcats Santelia Rose and Olivia Stutz slammed doubles. Santelia Rose and Karina Piser with quick assessments and accurate throws for outs at 2nd.

Eileen Cullen caught a fly and made a quick flip to 1st for the Wildcats' 1st double play ever!

Hannah Lyman made a great unassisted out at 2nd. Ariel Fiengold-Shaw and Kianna Ervin with good defensive stops to halt hard-hitting batters at 1st. Sierra Bradley slammed the ball each time at bat and also stopped a powerful line drive for an unassisted putout at 1st. Hannah Pollack laced it through the infield driving the runner in from 2nd. Rachel Kahan slammed a hit out past third and Maleta Wilson powered a hard hit ball. Both later scored.

MIDDLE DIVISION
Vivian Lopez Mighty Molars 8
Nolo Press Sharks 3

On a Saturday morning at Fielding Field that threatened rain, the Mighty Molars jumped out to an early 6-0 lead in the 1st inning and managed to hold on despite a furious rally by the Sharks in the bottom of the 4th to win, 8-3. The game displayed excellent play by both teams.

The Molars impressive 1st inning was highlighted by Helen Marks' triple, driving in 2 runs. The Molars turned in some fine pitching with Rebecca Williams getting 3 strikeouts in the 2nd and Merrily Grashin pitching a scoreless inning in the 3rd. On the Sharks side great fielding efforts were made by Becca Kahl - Tempkin in the 2nd turning a hard ground ball into an out and Emily Silverstein holding the Molars to a single on a sharply driven ball in the 3rd.

In the 4th and final inning, the Sharks

started a rally with Shayna Lignell and Anna Harris singling to get on base and then Arlene Sasse batting in 1 run and Silverstein knocking in 2 more. With the Sharks threatening to score still more, Rachel Sternin-Moser threw a runner out at first to get the first out. Then with the bases loaded and two outs, Casey Osborn threw to catcher Kim Upstill to get the final out and allow the Molars to hold on.

Dr. Brehnan's Smilemakers 33
Black, Brown, and Lanier L'Eagles 25

Shining defense decided the issue as the well-drilled Dr. Brehnan's Smilemakers held the Black, Brown, and Lanier L'Eagles to a scant 2 runs in the final inning of this hard-fought, high-scoring contest. The Smilemakers' offense was led by the timely hitting of Leah Fischer, Amaya Fernandez, Camila Padilla, Jenna Nation, and Ali Underwood. Manko Conner's stellar defensive play at 2nd included catching a tough fly ball. Olivia Kragen and Sarah Jelinsky contributed brilliant glove play, which helped the Smilemakers hold the lead in the late innings.

Rachel Egan was an offensive and defensive stalwart for the L'Eagles, contributing a 2-run double and several unassisted putouts in the infield. Lisa Richardson hit two towering flies, and while the first well-played by the Smilemakers, the second pushed across two runs. Rose Hermalin drove in two runs in the fourth with a convincing hit to right field. Phoebe White was a bundle of energy and determination

in the field and at the plate, combining with Paige Freiburger and Lisa Richardson for some smooth defensive work, and lacing a line shot up the middle that unfortunately was declared a dead ball as it got the best of pitcher/coach Paul Freiburger.

OLDER DIVISION
Hans Stahlshmidt Cardinals 20
Red Oak Realty Roadrunners 4

The changeable skies mirrored the Red Oak Roadrunners changing fortunes as they hosted the Hans Stahlshmidt Cardinals at King Middle School. The Roadrunners held the Cardinals scoreless at their first at bat when pitcher Ariel Gough caught Sophie Simon-Ortiz's line drive and threw it to Sydney McIver at first base for a double play that retired the side. Cardinals pitcher Simon-Ortiz struck the Roadrunners out, after loading the bases and walking a runner home. Red Oak led 1-0 at the end of the 1st.

The tide turned when 3 big singles by Erin Turner, Vanessa Pratt, and Delaney Danielson brought in 4 runs for the Cardinals in the top of the 2nd. Amanda Wallace at 1st was outstanding for Red Oak's defense as she made all 3 outs unassisted. Amy Johnson scored Red Oak's 2nd run of the game after walking, then stealing all the way home.

A 2-run double by Cardinal Emily Springhart brought in Lizzie Lesch and Danielson, capping a 6-run Cardinal 3rd. Red Oak scored their run in that inning when Karen Kemp's hard grounder to the pitcher brought in Julie Jones for 3rd.

Stellar baserunning by Jay Teng led to the Cardinals' only run in the 4th. The Cardinals kept the Roadrunners runless in the bottom of the 4th, and overwhelmed them by scoring 9 runs in the top of the 5th. The last run of the game was scored when Roadrunner Jones's solid single brought Christine Kemp home for 3rd.

Autumn Press Amazons 12
Jesse Young Angels 5

With sharp pitching on both sides, Autumn Press used better hitting and fielding to wind up on top. Erica Dickinson began pitching for the Angels and had a perfect inning, only to see it spoiled by some infield confusion. Bailey Nichols, pitching for Autumn Press, showed great poise and control in allowing just 1 run.

Danielle Moore set the mood for the game in the 2nd inning with a 2-RBI triple for Autumn Press. She also pitched a 1-2-3 inning, ending when Sacha Atkins-Loria hit a hard line drive for the Angels that was neatly snagged by Claire Wilkens. In the top of the third, Julia Leipman of the Angels made 2 good plays on hard grounders, each time getting the lead runner out. Rachel Schlessinger showed great stuff pitching, giving up only 1 run. In the bottom of that same inning, Anita Feingold-Shaw got an RBI on a line drive single to the outfield, as the Angels got 3 runs to close to 9-5.

Autumn Press made up the 3 runs in the top of the 4th, featuring a gigantic triple by Claire Wilkens that was only just shy of a homer. Ilana Baar also contributed a key

hit. Good fielding by Julia Leipman, Amy Havens, and Anna Leff-Kich prevented more damage. In the bottom of the inning, pitcher Baar was almost unhittable to end the game.

Jane Hammond Events
Tornados 10
Piedmont Pipers 9

In a nail-biter behind the productive bats of Katy Fong, Joanna Hoch and Krislyn Patterson, the Tornados managed to survive a late comeback bid by the pesky Pipers.

The Tornados staked the Pipers to a 4-run lead in the top of the 1st, aided by consecutive hits by Ranser and Woo and cashed in on Lundin's ringing double. However, the home team Tornados bounced right back to even up the score on RBI doubles by Joe Warner and Rebecca Hand.

After the Tornados shut down the Pipers 1-2-3, they then unleashed a tornado of their own in their half of the 2nd. Kayla Lewis' single was followed by consecutive doubles from the bats Caitlin Dulic and Patterson. The hit parade continued with a 2-RBI single by Katy Fong and a double smoked into the gap in left by Joanna Hoch. The Pipers made it close in the 5th, coming within a run of sending the game into overtime when power-hitter Wooster drove in a pair with a double. But the Tornados held tough on a defensive gem from Amanda Wake, throwing to Patterson covering 2nd to end the inning and the game.

Stroble leads Cal to 8th consecutive rugby title

SAN FRANCISCO — Cal captured its eighth consecutive national rugby championship Sunday, beating Stanford, 34-15.

The Cardinal led at halftime, 15-10, and they took 24 unanswered second-half points from the Bears including two late tries to secure the title, an undefeated season, and a continuation of Cal's rugby dynasty.

Like much of the season, Cal captain and flyhalf Dave Stroble engineered the majority of the magic. Despite a hamstring pull incurred in Saturday's semifinal, Stroble kicked five penalty goals and two conversions, while also directing the offense.

"Stroble is such a good player that even at 75 percent he is a force," said coach Jack Clark.

Another top Cal player, No. 8 Shaun Paga, was also hampered by injury. But despite back and ankle problems, Paga stamped the game with his signature storming runs, setting up one try for center Deron McElroy.

"Shaun is a gamer," said Clark. "He will put in his best performance in the biggest games."

Cradling the Final Four's MVP award after the game, Paga shrugged off the injury problem.

"Once I took the field, I didn't feel a thing," he said, "nothing at all."

It was an even more determined Stanford team at Balboa Park in San Francisco than the one Cal faced at home in the regular season. The Cardinal forwards stormed into the rucks and mauls in the first half, often disrupting Cal ball. Stanford's backs were typically opportunistic, grabbing an interception and scoring under the posts near the end of the first half.

The Bears had drawn first blood, with a try to flanker and senior captain Simon Terry-Lloyd in the fourth minute of the game. But thoughts of a Cal rout were soon dismissed when Stanford's winger Dave Watter kicked a penalty from 45 meters to narrow the gap. Watter then added a try after Cal miscued on a 22m restart and the Cardinal exploited their advantage out wide from the ensuing scrum.

The intercept try to Stanford center Michael Ceballos followed and it took



File '98 Jeff Landquist

O'Dowd's Conan Kelly pokes ball away from Berkeley's Nick Bradley, left, in game last month.

Jackets

Continued from page B3

Last Friday the Jackets watched their No. 3 seed hopes go down the drain as they dropped a one-goal decision to No. 2 Alacalanes, 9-8. The Jackets were paced by goals from captain Michael John

Crickmore, who had a hat-trick, and Robbie Helliesen, Ben Schooler and Peter Fisher.

"We came out slow, and they jumped on us with three straight goals to start the game," explained Sparhawk. "We were asleep that first half and usually we do the opposite, start out fast then wind down at the end. But we were able to tie the game

with about three minutes left before they went ahead, and we missed a couple of opportunities at the end."

If the Jackets can get past Palo Alto, BOD will certainly have something waiting for them on Thursday. The Dragons must still be huffing and puffing about their 9-7 loss two weeks ago when they watched their five-point lead

disintegrate to two in the game's waning seconds.

"It'll be tough going against O'Dowd, they're the top-ranked team in the league," Sparhawk said. "Especially when we're still tired from our game before and they're fresh. But we gave them a solid loss a couple of games ago, so we'll just see what happens."

a last minute penalty from Stroble to edge Cal back into the game before the halftime break. Cal was down despite some major contributions from lock Matt Kane who stole Stanford's line-out ball repeatedly, and hooker Kirk Khasigian who was omnipresent on both offense and defense.

At the break, Clark asked his team to up its effort after an average first period.

"We made a commitment to more effort," Clark said. "You get into these big games and you get fatigued from all the emotion of the event. But we came right in the second half. I had a

sense we would."

"Coming right" meant sustained pressure for Stanford. The Bears could not finish their repeated attacks with a try, but spent enough time on offense that Stroble slotted four penalties. Even so, with five minutes left to play, the Bears were up by only one converted try and mindful of the attack-from-anywhere Stanford style.

Cal finally cracked the Cardinal defense with a variation on a scrum move that used McElroy as a decoy rather than the ball carrier and put wing Ryan Fried into enough space

that he bustled over the Stanford line for his third try of the weekend.

The icing on Cal's championship cake came as the game clock wound down. Stroble slipped through the defense at midfield and streaked to the 22m. A few passes later, Paga pushed the ball to the one meter line and McElroy scored to seal the Bear's win.

For the coaches of the nation's top collegiate team, there's no breather after the championship match. Clark

leaves immediately with the U.S. men's team for the Asian leg of the Pacific Rim Championship.

For Cal the national championship is the 15th since the collegiate title tournament began in 1980. It also crowns the first undefeated season since '65. The Bears beat Canada's finest in '98, defeating its national champions, Victoria, and second-ranked British Columbia, which held the Bears to a tie in Berkeley, but lost at home in Vancouver.

Albany

Continued from page B3

runners in scoring position in the fourth.

But before all that took place, the Cougars were actually losing. In Louie's first inning she gave up a walk, a stolen base and a fielder's choice and the Cougars were down by a run.

Over five innings she finished with seven walks, two strikeouts and hit three batters.

"I think Emilie did all right today, she's a little off the cuff but I'm not too concerned about it," remarked Mejia. "She just needs a little more work. But with all the injuries we've been having, I don't have time to just focus on the pitching."

Apparently, Mejia's primary concern is his ailing roster. Third baseman Aimee Williams, who finished with two singles and an RBI, has a hyper-extended knee, Raya is nursing a bad elbow, and catcher Angelica Romero has a few bruised ribs.

But all the ailments in the world wouldn't have stopped the Cougars from beating the 'Stangs once they took the plate in the bottom of the first. Left fielder Sophia Rivera hit a solo homer to left to open the floodgates, then a walk by Diaz, a single from Williams and a double by Bower sent the Mustangs reeling. In all the Cou-

gars scored six times during the inning, and never looked back.

Unfortunately, the Cougars followed up their impressive victory with a 11-1 loss to Piedmont last Friday, but they get the chance to make up for it this Friday with a road game against Encinal. The following Monday they host Kennedy at Memorial Park.

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REAL ESTATE



The Montclair
The Piedmont
The Berkeley Voice
The Journal

May 7-8, 1998

C-1

Loan titans march in lockstep

H. W. Moss

Right now the mortgage business is hot. Loan rates are hovering around a four year low, the economy is surging and consumer confidence is at an all time high.

Nationwide, new home sales are off to a fast start this year, existing home sales are at a record annual pace in February and mortgage finance fever does not seem to be cooling.

As a result, loan brokers are overwhelmed with applications. Such a world you might think it is easier today to get a loan on a first or second home or when investing in one to four units than was a year ago. After all, mortgage rates are market driven and lenders everywhere are competing for your business.

But that turns out not to be the case. Although the rates may be low, the underlying cost of a loan, the points you pay a mortgage broker and the ability to qualify for a loan in the first place, have not altered to fit demand.

That's because there are really only two companies making the mortgage loans and they march in lockstep. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the privately owned mortgage

investing firms traded on the New York Stock Exchange, issue guidelines and publish the ratios that all mortgage lenders must follow if these lenders intend to sell the loans they make and recoup

'80s, when Freddie used a net method of calculating ratios and Fannie did not. But they use the same techniques today. Both make apartment loans and if you ask enough loan brokers, you learn that Freddie is not as active as Fannie in the residential market.

Yet these two large private corporations are responsible for whether or not you qualify for a real estate loan and what you pay when you get one. Both have gone to automated underwriting and, naturally, both have Websites.

"We look more alike today," said Janice Daue, vice president for public affairs for Fannie Mae in Washington, DC. "Whereas 20 years ago we looked very different from one another in terms of our structure and types of loans we made. We're larger than Freddie, and Freddie didn't purchase loans for its portfolio for a long time. Now they do."

Neither company actually makes a loan, however. They buy them at discount from mortgage brokers, banks, savings institutions and private investors after

their money so they make more loans.

It can be said that the conventional loan market is Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. And although they once were quite distinct from one another, having come from different origins and eras, they look very much alike today. Freddie was formed out of the thrift industry in 1972 whereas Fannie was born in 1934 more from the mortgage banking industry as part of Roosevelt's New Deal. Today you don't see much difference between them at all.

Since neither one is a government agency, the loans they make are guaranteed by them, not the government. As private companies, they take the losses on defaulted mortgages.

According to one mortgage broker there was a time in the late

See MOSS on page C-2

Sylvan Piedmont setting



Photo by Don Dunning

Sitting on a quiet tree-lined Piedmont street, this gracious home retains its old-world charm.

Whether you lounge on the big front porch or sunbathe in the fabulous, private, landscaped back yard, you will enjoy wonderful outdoor living. The fenced, level yard is perfect for children at play or adults at rest.

Charm abounds from the

unique front door with its beveled glass to the warm, natural wood wainscoting; from its crown moldings to the oak hardwood floors; from its lovely dining room built-ins to the unique, exquisitely tiled fireplace.

Four bedrooms provide space for the family. An enormous base-

ment with a plus room and full bath allow for a broad range of possibilities.

This home, at 32 Jerome Avenue, is offered at \$539,000. For more information call Don Dunning, CRB, CRS at Wells & Bennet Realtors 531-7575, ext. 239.

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ROCKRIDGE FIXER.....\$327,000
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Terry Kulka

LINCOLN HEIGHTS.....\$309,000
Attractive spacious units. Excellent rents, low maintenance, close to transportation.
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UPPER ROCKRIDGE.....\$280,000
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BERKELEY URBAN VILLA EXTRAORDINAIRE.....\$239,000
JUST LISTED! Remodeled with beautiful architectural designed family room addition! Traditional style, 3BR/2BA w/ master suite. Craftsman detailing, hardwood floors. Near 4th Street and Gilman Shops.

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Moss

Continued from page C-1

the mortgage has been created. But this is a case of the buyer calling the shots. They won't buy loans if their guidelines have not been followed. And the difference between getting a conventional loan and an unconventional one is at least one percent per year over the life of the loan. Fail to meet their demands and instead of a 7.5 percent rate, you get an 8.5 percent rate or worse.

Freddie Mac's automated underwriting package is called Loan Prospector. Fannie Mae uses a program called Desktop Underwriter. According to one source, these automated systems have had a surprising beneficial side effect for the consumer: the ratio requirements have loosened.

Among other factors, borrowers must meet what are known as "front" and "back-end" ratios which have historically been around 28 percent and 36 percent respectively. These ratios compare the borrower's mortgage debt and total debt to monthly gross income.

"Loan Prospector can assess risk

without placing as much emphasis on front and back ratios," said Freddie Mac spokesperson Jeffrey Noe of the public relations department in McLean, VA.

"It utilizes risk models. One of the things found while creating the models is front and back ratios were not necessarily the only indicator of a borrower's ability to meet their mortgage obligation. In the three years Prospector has been in use, many lenders have been able to make loans to borrowers using ratios higher than 28 and 36 percent."

And there are subtle differences in what loan packages are available from Freddie and Fannie.

"For example, Chase can offer you an 80-10-10 through Fannie Mae where Freddie Mac it has to be 75-15-10," said Ed Kerwin, Chase Manhattan loan officer.

Kerwin said that although guidelines change all the time, for the most part the two loan buyers are very similar.

"I've never done a quick qualifier or no income qualifier with Fannie or Freddie," he said. "They require documentation."

Their Websites are:

fanniemae.com
freddiemac.com.

At freddiemac.com in a section called Homebuyers there is a publication called "Credit Scores: A Win Win Win Approach for Homebuyers, Lenders and Investors" which discusses frequently asked questions about credit scoring. Guidelines to lenders can also be found at the site.

When pricing a loan between the two, their rates often differ by no more than an one-eighth of a point. Rates are supposed to fluctuate independently but are often so close: within a couple hundredths of a percent. These days they have what one broker called merged pricing.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac make home mortgages possible by creating an active resale market. But although rates may change, these there are only two competitors in the field. As long as there is high demand for new loans they will get along just fine.

So it looks like what will not drop any time soon is the cost of a loan. Nor will the conditions for acquisition become any easier.

H.W. Moss is a licensed real estate associate with TCO in San Francisco. Visit him at www.netnovels.com.

Closing encounters, the realty king

By Ion Stoica

What exactly is meant by "closing" on a property? Closing refers to the meeting in which title and money are exchanged between the seller and the buyer, and the sale of the home or property is finalized.

At the closing, all the progressive steps in buying a home—from the acceptance of the offer to the title search, from the home inspection to the buyer's loan application all the way up to approval—come together in a final transaction. The documents are ready to sign, the buyer is ready to hand over the purchase price, and the seller is ready to transfer ownership and hand over the keys.

A closing usually takes less than an hour. The buyers always attend the meeting; the sellers are usually there as well, although their signature can often be obtained in advance. The brokers and the title company representative, who acts as the intermediary for the seller and buyer in the transaction are also

in attendance. This closing meeting usually takes place at an escrow company or a law office, unless planned otherwise.

At the closing the loan documents are reviewed with the buyer, with particular attention paid to such matters as the loan amount, the payment schedule and itemization of closing costs, including impounds for taxes and insurance, if any.

If everything is as it should be, the buyer signs the loan papers. By the time the closing is held, the title company has already conducted a title search and verified that the seller holds title is held, and there are no liens against the property. If there were any obstacles or other conditions that could have potentially undermined the sale of the property, the title company will have resolved these prior to closing.

Assuming, however, that the funds are in order, the deed is correct and the title is clear, the funds

are disbursed to the seller and keys presented to the new owner.

According to most title companies, a closing is a complicated transaction and that is why it is important that great care be given in selecting a title company to close a real estate transaction. Financial stability of a title agency is another key factor to consider.

It is best to rely on your real estate professional to help guide you in making your title company selection, as their company has more than likely built a long term relationship with a reputable and reliable title company that will provide you with the level of service that you expect.

Although a closing is a culmination of weeks of hard work, you will find it all worthwhile once you have the keys to your new home.

Ion Stoica is an East Bay Realtor, call him at 276-2020 Ext 18 or on his cell phone at 305-649

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REAL ESTATE AGENT OF THE WEEK:
DIANE OHLSSON

"Diane, a native of upstate New York, has been a resident of the East Bay since 1975, and an Albany resident since 1986. She has earned a reputation as an acutely insightful listener in her 23 years of local real estate sales. Diane has an unusual ability to perceive and meet her clients goals through exceptional counseling and negotiating skills. For her expertise, attention to detail, and energetic follow-through, call Diane at Red Oak Realty 510-527-3387 ext. 209, or her home office, 526-5273."



Agent of the Week Diane Ohlsson



L to R: Abraham, Mira & Michael

HOMES OPEN SUNDAY

1139 Ivy Court (2-4).....El Cerrito.....4bd/3ba.....\$499,000
1581 "A" Arch St. (2-4).....Berkeley.....2bd/1.5ba.....\$229,000
5914 Fremont St. (2-4).....Oakland/Eville border.....3+bd/2ba.....\$235,000
1901-03 Harmon (2-4).....Berkeley/Duplex.....1bd/1ba.....\$199,950
6207 Huntington Ave. (2-4).....Richmond Annex.....1bd/1ba.....\$112,000
611 Evelyn (2-4:30).....Albany.....3bd/1ba.....\$239,000

BY APPOINTMENT

ALBANY
Fabulous Contemp. 3bd/2ba Airy, skylights & gorgeous.....\$325,000
Contractor's alert! 3bd/1ba MacGregor w/studio & yard. Needs work. \$239,000
3bd/1ba cosmetic fixer w/5,000 sq ft lot! Grt Albany location!.....\$198,600
Quiet secluded 1bd/1ba, exudes charm & seclusion, lovely pvt. gdn.....\$176,500
BERKELEY
Exquisite 4bd/3ba mansion w/piano vus! Great detail & 2bd sep. unit. \$1,290,000
Spectac. 4bd/3ba Monterey Colonial home! Exquisite gardens.....\$625,000
4+bd/4ba contemp! Dramatic pano views frn 3 levels! Poss. hm off.....\$579,000
4bd/3.5ba GLORIOUS HOME. Views, hw flrs, off. w/full BA!.....\$559,000
4 UNITS - No. Berk Hills, great location! Beaut. architecture.....\$399,900
New listing! Charming, clean, 2bd Monterey Colonial.....\$289,000
Terrific 2+bd/1.25 traditional townhome, remod. kitchen & more.....\$229,000
New listing! Westbrae starter. 2bd/1ba. Priced to sell!.....\$165,000

Condos near campus for University staff & faculty.....\$149K-\$155K
EL CERRITO
Traditional 4+bd/3ba E.C. Hills. Bay views! Move-in condition.....\$499,000
3bd/2.5ba new construction on creek. Work w/developer!.....\$325,000
2bd/1ba. Love where you live! Large private yard! Move-in cond!.....\$239,000
OAKLAND
Montclair trad. 3bd/2ba w/canyon vu, family room, move-in cond.....\$295,000
Beautiful 3bd/2ba bungalow. Gardener's delight on Eville border!.....\$235,000
RICHMOND
2bd/1.5ba Condo with Canyon views! Pool tennis.....\$179,000
Annex cozy 1bd bungalow near BART. Hardwood. more!.....\$112,000
North & East 2bd/1ba move right in! Fresh paint inside & out!.....\$108,000
COMMERCIAL/LOTS & LAND
Leased retail center - near BART & UC Berkeley.....\$7,500,000
Newer architect designed office building.....\$1,695,000
Wonderful single use building built by the Masons.....\$775,000
Retail/Comm apx. 1,500 sf on 2,500 sf lot. Curr used as restrnt.....\$225,000
Great lot! Mod. down slope Claremont cyn & No. Bay vus!.....\$120,000
Elmwood Established bakery business opp. w/good lease.....\$85,000
Cafe business opp/lease! No. side location near UC Berkeley.....\$65,000
BERK HILLS LOT - Current permits avail, soil/found rpts.....\$55,000

SATISFIED HOMESELLERS/BUYERS OF THE WEEK: TANSY MATTINGLY & ANDY WEILL

Our boisterous blended brood and billions of belongings were bursting out of our itty-bitty bungalow. We'd been blundering about for eighteen back-breaking months, looking for the bigger, better, 4 bedroom/3 bath abode of our dreams. Our beguiling bungalow languished bizarrely on the "busy" market for four baffling months without a bite. It was unbearable. Then, we hired Diane Ohlsson, and in less than a month we had a heavenly huge new home and a bungalow buyer. Diane is wonderful, witty and wise, a veritable wizard of transactions. She can make it happen. Bravo!

RESIDENTIAL INCOME

8 UNITS - 2bd ea w/gdn patio or balc Quality bldg nr BART \$775,000
9 UNITS - Rich Annex \$84,360 Income! 8-2bd twtns. 1-1bd apt. \$699,000
2-plex & sep comm unit on Eville border! Unique & whimsical \$298,000
Huge 2 story townhouse style duplex on deep lot.....\$229,000
4-Plex No. & E Richmond Four-1bd Units w/garage.....\$215,000
New listing! So Berkeley flats two large 1-bd updated.....\$199,950



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A Part of YOUR Community

Relationships are key to top producer's success

Gene Boomer is a firm believer in not just making sales but in building relationships. This has helped Gene maintain his four-year standing as Prudential California Realty's top producer at its Montclair office.

"In marketing a home, I am personally charged with maximizing the seller's profit on what is usually their largest single investment," said Gene.

He knows he is able to grow in his business relationships because he listens accurately to his client's needs.

"Listening is key to helping my clients accomplish their goals, whether they're buying or selling a home," he said.

His satisfied clients do not hesitate to recommend his expertise to others: 80 percent of his business is referral-based.

Gene's record of success speaks for itself:

- Top Producer 1994 through 1997 at Prudential California Realty's Montclair office;
- Lifetime member of Prudential California Realty's President's Club;
- Number one in sales for Prudential California Realty in



Gene Boomer

Alameda County in 1995, 1996 and 1997.

• A member of Prudential Realty's Top 100 in 1997, an honor that includes top performers in the United States and Canada.

Finding the right professional is simply a matter of calling the right professional, Gene Boomer of Prudential California Realty's Montclair office. Call him at 339-9290. E-mail him at gnbomer@msn.com.

Rockridge family repolishes gem

By Joshua Silverman

In 1910 the Laymance Real Estate Company created an Oakland subdivision called "Rock Ridge Properties." The company developed the area east of Broadway. Dynamite cleared the area for housing years earlier and Laymance was ready to forge ahead creating a new residential housing district targeting a more affluent community of home buyers.

Influenced by communities he saw in Southern California, Rockridge designer Fred E. Reed decided to design streets that followed the natural contour of the ridges and ravines. The result is a stunning neighborhood that eager home buyers quickly gobbled up.

Long after Reed saw his dream flourish home buyers like James and Stephanie Clambeneva, who came to upper Rockridge in 1973, share a continuing love affair with their neighborhood a quarter mile in from the elaborate Italian pillars on Broadway that denote the formal entrance to the district.

Advertisers in 1910 touted "improvements" for the Rockridge area such as gutters, curbs, sidewalks and water supply, but today features such as "the best climate in the Bay Area" would be advertised if proud home owners like the Clambenevas were soliciting buyers.

Their home was built in 1913 by brothers L.S.W. and M.P. Brasc along with architect Ralph Wyckoff, who like the Brascas, owned a home of his own in the general area. The Clambeneva's house is considered French Renaissance with Neo-Classical lines.

James, a self-proclaimed "citizen of the world," was born in Australia, and Stephanie, a native San Franciscan, are the fourth owners of their Rockridge home finding it two years after they arrived from Australia.

The third owners of the house, as James recalls, "ran the house into the ground." As a young couple the Clambeneva's embraced the chal-

lenge of returning their new found gem to its proper condition.

They began work on what would be the first of two renovations performed on the house. They sanded, painted, refinished, and weeded until the house was to their liking.

After the first renovation and six years in the home, James was offered an irresistible job working overseas with an international conglomerate. In 1979 James, his wife and their two small children shoved off to Europe where they spent an unexpected 17 years living in England, France and Greece. They decided to keep the home.

In terms of James' professional advancement coupled by the adventure of living a cosmopolitan life-style the decision to leave the home in renters' hands was a good one.

However, after assessing the damage done to their home caused by 17 years of negligent renters the Clambeneva's were apt to feel less than positive about the move.

The Clambeneva's visited their home yearly to confer with tenants and survey upkeep of their property. While abroad they had the house painted and the roof replaced, but unfortunately a 17,000 mile gap and approximately 350 days away per year made it difficult, if not impossible, for them to be diligent landlords.

Similar to homeowners who actually live on their property, each time they returned a new series of

problems would arise. They managed to keep the home attractive enough that at least the neighbors would not complain, but nonetheless it was heart-wrenching for James and Stephanie to see their

was sanded and painted, even the stairs needed a new coat of paint which were then covered with a gorgeous Persian rug held down with brass bars at each stair. Every ceiling was retextured, a classy off-

They began work on what would be the first of two renovations on the house; they sanded, painted, refinished, and weeded until the house was to their liking.

dream home slowly fall into disrepair.

Having completed his responsibilities abroad James decided with his family to return to the Bay Area in 1996. The Clambeneva's then devoted much of their energies for the next two years to restoring the house to its former beauty. At present the house is more beautiful than at any other time they can remember.

The Clambeneva's report peeling away wallpaper in some sections of the house that was six layers thick. All hardwood floors in the house were refinished. Depending on the section of the home the wood floors reveal different grains. The upstairs wood shines with a deep golden brown luster that warms the rooms it inhabits.

All the interior trim of the house

white covers most rooms and ceilings. The firebrick chimney was reconstructed and designed with a keen eye on the aesthetics of the living room. Furniture and art pieces from around the world are scattered throughout the living and dining rooms.

The only untouched room at least for the time being is the kitchen. The spacious kitchen is reminiscent of a different era in architecture, it provides one with an idea of what the house may have felt like years before.

They do plan on renovating the kitchen which includes removing the wall adjacent to the small breakfast room that overlooks the garden, creating more light and allowing a more sociable cooking envi-

See GEM on page C-4



Built in 1913 by the brothers L.S.W. and M.P. Brasc along with architect Ralph Wyckoff, the Clambeneva's house is considered French Renaissance with Neo-Classical lines.

Attention seniors

Montclair Better Homes invites senior homeowners to a free seminar from 1 to 3 p.m., Sat., April 11 at the East Hills Community Church, 12000 Campus Drive in Oakland.

If you've been asking yourself, "where do I go from here?" this

seminar is for you. Learn about tax laws and asset protection, residential communities and residential care facilities. See just where the current real estate market is headed and what it may mean to you.

For more information call about the seminar, call 339-8400.

To place a real estate ad call 339-4046.

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165 WOODLAND WAY NEW LISTING \$650,000
Opportunity knocks! Charming English style home in wonderful Piedmont neighborhood. Four bedrooms and one and one-half baths. Beautifully landscaped grounds. MINDY SCOTT

50 CALVERT COURT NEW PRICE \$479,500
A wonderfully charming traditional with a private entry patio, sun-filled living & dining & split-level 3 bedrooms/2 baths and private garden. ELIZABETH DICKSON

Oakland - Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.

12585 BROOKPARK ROAD NEW PRICE \$445,000
Expect the unexpected! 5+ /4. Master suite from the movies! Exquisite style & size. Landscaped garden. K. COOPER
37 WINDWARD HILL \$439,000
Enjoy resort living year round. Attractive Hiller Highlands 3/2 townhouse with loft and Bay views plus Highlands Country Club Membership. Custom upgrades. SUSANNE PAUL
5417 THOMAS AVENUE NEW LISTING \$429,000
Wonderful light-filled Rockridge home w/level landscaped garden & deck. Beautifully updated kit & baths. M. DELACROIX

5901 ASCOT DRIVE \$399,000
Meticulously maintained Piedmont Pines home with lovely view. 3bedrms/2baths incl private master suite L. MCCLAIN
3515 BUTTERS DRIVE NEW LISTING \$297,000
A charming home located on a quiet lane w/easy access to regional parks, trans & shops. Appealing architectural details & lovely garden off master 3. 2. SHERRY BENNINGER

Piedmont - By Appointment

GLEN ALPINE ROAD CALL FOR PRICE
Historical French Country Estate on a level site. Elegant formal rooms, European library & luxurious master suite w/dual baths. 10+ /7+ & guest house. S. VOGL
PIEDMONT MEDITERRANEAN \$1,965,000
A beautiful Mediterranean w/dramatic architectural detailing & lots of privacy. Updated kitchen & 6 bedrooms. A. TUNNEY
CENTRAL LOCATION \$995,000
Clarence Mayhew designed home set on 2/3 of an acre. Wonderful detailing. 6/4 S, rumpus & wine cellar. J. SIMMONS

CLOSE TO SCHOOLS \$745,000
Fabulous home, beautifully designed and maintained large family room w/bu tns. Four bedrooms/two and one-half baths level out to garden. JEAN SIMMONS
PIEDMONT JEWEL NEW LISTING \$744,000
A dramatic Contemporary located in a private setting. Wonderful kitchen, tv/family room & 3/3. JEANETTE ROACH
RARE PENTHOUSE LIVING \$579,000
Outrageous SF Bay views in this nearly new home. Move right in and enjoy the beauty and privacy. ANIAN TUNNEY

By Appointment

ORINDA PARADISE \$2,850,000
Architecturally significant estate offers a luxurious lifestyle on 16 acres of lush, secluded gardens with tennis court, pool, gym & sep. guest cottage. J. ROACH/N. ROTHMAN
MT. DIABLO VIEWS \$960,000
This 1/2 acre gated estate. 4/3 5 & detached cottage. Wonderful use of natural wood, granite & limestone. NANCY LEHRKIND
BREATHTAKING CANYON VIEWS \$619,000
Fabulous 4 bedroom/3 bath Ridgmont home with exquisite, private landscaped grounds. Modern kitchen and family room. S. BENNINGER
WOODSY HAVEN \$429,000
Handsome custom contemporary in woods, private setting 4/3 incl. master suite retreat w/sauna. MELITTA BEESON
RIDGEMONT HOME \$419,000
Expansive canyon views. Cozy family room, spacious kitchen w/heating area & large master suite. SHERRY BENNINGER

ALL LEVEL EASY LIVING \$399,000
Very spacious all level home with comfortable family room off eat-in kitchen. Luxurious spa. Desirable Montclair. ED KUO
CLASSIC CAPE COD \$375,000
Lovely courtyard entry into this Crocker Highlands home w/ formal living & dining. Updated kitchen, family room, hardwood floors & Bay windows. 3/2 & large deck. JAMES GARCIA
MONTCLAIR SERENITY NEW PRICE \$359,000
3/2 home w/studio apartment. Slate entry, beamed ceilings & hardwood floors. Sunny, level front & rear gardens. D. DRYDEN
SWEEPING BAY VIEWS \$297,000
5 year old Contemporary home featuring a sweeping Bay views, three bedrooms, two and one-half baths with master suite, level yard & 2-car garage. SHERRY BENNINGER
LOVELY SETTING \$274,000
Spacious Crocker Highlands contemporary w/updated interior 4/2, rumpus, canyon view & garden. In-law potential. J. KARNAY
SERENE CLAREMONT SETTING \$399,000
New construction w/hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen w/granite counters & master w/fireplace 3/2 S. KURT BUCHHOLZ

HOW TO PACKAGE YOUR HOUSE.

In the last couple months, some funny things have been happening around here. On a very nice street in Berkeley, there were two one-bedroom houses for sale. Both were listed for \$195K. One had two offers and sold for that price. The other had fifteen offers and sold for \$69K over that. So what was the difference?

It was the package. And this doesn't have anything to do with Mr. Clean -- both houses were neat and tidy. Believe it or not, it has everything to do with ... falling in love.

People falling in love with your house.

How? Well, it's breakfast in bed on Sunday morning. A worn pine table. A knitted throw on the couch. An open Sunset Magazine beside it. All the things that make a house a place you'd love to be. It's olive oils, baskets and spices on a kitchen counter even for cooks from the school of Lean Cuisine.

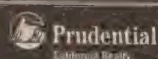


It's dried flowers. Fresh flowers. Seeing the outside from every room. And it doesn't matter if they don't know a penstemon from a periwinkle, it's freshly tilled soil. And a small garden of lavender and sage. So people don't see walls and halls. They see their fantasies. And that's what people buy.

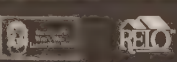
Now, if you're not quite sure how to create this sort of package, please give me a call. Because selling a house isn't really about selling a house. It's about starting a romance.



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339-0400





The garden rests on three levels covering an upwardly sloping backyard. Chairs can be positioned to overlook rose bushes, irises, cala lilies, and a gorgeous Athenian sculpture.

Gem

Continued from page C3
ronment. James confessed that he needs a little respite from the clamor of construction in his home.

The garden was unrecognizable when they returned from Europe. A tangled forest would be the best way to describe it, but today the garden is quite possibly the highlight of the home. "You would never of known there was a garden underneath that rubbish," said James.

The garden rests on three levels covering their upwardly sloping backyard. To the far left is a red-wood gazebo that shades a small area with seats and a table.

The chairs can be positioned to overlook the multi-leveled garden filled with rose bushes, irises, cala lilies, and a gorgeous Athenian sculpture that rests peacefully near a small fountain below.

At the far end of the garden are grape vines and another small area

for chairs and a grill. Amongst other plant life the garden is surrounded by an orange and apple tree and jasmine. The newly landscaped garden can be entered from the side of the house through hand made iron gates specifically designed for the home.

The end of the tour was laced

with commentary from James and Stephanie's son. The pride the Clambeneva's displayed while showing off their home has obviously not been lost on the next generation; it seems another soul has been lured into a love that early 20-century Rockridge designers were certain would blossom.

Check out garden center

The Oakland East Bay Garden Center Inc. has a library with emphasis on books on plants, gardening and horticulture.

The public is invited to use the library and the other Garden Center facilities. For more information Call the Garden Center at 482-5252.

To reach the real estate editor call 339-4047.

SMART MONEY



LEILA GOUGH

If you are still confused about how IRAs work, here's a bit of advice: Don't worry, you're not alone. A recent article in *Investor's Business Daily* noted that only 26 percent of investors completing a basic test about IRAs could correctly answer more than half the questions.

Despite the recent media bombardment about IRAs, the new tax laws and the creation of the Roth IRA are still generating a lot of questions. If you're curious about your IRA knowledge, here is a quick quiz to test your investment smarts.

Question #1: How much can you contribute to an IRA each year?

Question #2: Does the money in an IRA have the potential to grow tax-deferred or tax-free?

Question #3: In a traditional IRA, withdrawals are required once the account holder reaches 70 1/2. When must withdrawals from a Roth IRA begin?

Question #4: True or false. You can transfer funds from your traditional IRA into your Roth IRA with no tax penalty.

Question #5: Here's one for those who love math riddles. Let's say you're 45 years old. You and your spouse have invested \$4,000 in your IRAs for the past 10 years, and your investments earn 8 percent annually.

If you wanted to withdraw \$10,000 from your IRA today, how much could you potentially be forfeiting 20 years from now?

Take some time to think about your answers, then compare them to the ones below:

Answer #1: \$2,000 for individuals; \$4,000 for married couples who fall within IRS income limitations. These amounts apply to a traditional

How much do you know about IRAs?

IRA, a Roth IRA or a combination of IRAs.

Prior to 1997, if either you or your spouse did not work, your combined annual contribution could not exceed \$2,250; the new tax laws have done away with this limitation.

Answer #2: This answer depends

on the type of IRA you use. A traditional IRA allows your money the

chance to grow tax-deferred, meaning you would have to pay tax on your withdrawals. For the Roth IRA, your money can grow tax-free as long as you meet certain holding requirements. Keep in mind that IRA withdrawals before age 59 1/2 could subject you to a 10 percent tax penalty as well as ordinary income taxes.

While some questions are certainly more difficult than others, this gives you a brief glimpse of the intricacies of IRAs

on the type of IRA you use. A traditional IRA allows your money the chance to grow tax-deferred, meaning you would have to pay tax on your withdrawals.

For the Roth IRA, your money can grow tax-free as long as you meet certain holding requirements. Keep in mind that IRA withdrawals before age 59 1/2 could subject you to a 10 percent tax penalty as well as ordinary income taxes.

Answer #3: There is no age when you are required to make withdrawals from a Roth IRA.

Answer #4: False. You will incur some taxes if you convert any tradi-

tional IRA assets into a Roth IRA. However, if you are eligible to make the conversion and do so in 1998, you can spread your tax liability over the next four years. After 1998 you will have to pay income taxes in the year which you convert assets from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA.

While some questions are certainly more difficult than others, this gives you a brief glimpse of the intricacies of IRAs and how the proper use of your IRA can make a big difference in the long run.

Leila Gough is an Associate Vice President at the A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. in Oakland. She can be reached at 273-8840. Visit the A.G. Edwards Website at www.agedwards.com.

Seniors, avoid scams

Each year the Contractor's State License Board receives 30,000 complaints. Almost 7,500 of these complaints deal with unlicensed contractors.

The board has a brochure with tips for seniors to help them from

being ripped off.

To receive a copy of "What Seniors Should Know Before Hiring a Contractor," call (800) 321-2752 or write to Contractors State License Board, P.O. Box 26000, Sacramento, CA 95826.

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Exceptional quality. Every room captures Golden Gate view! Totally level entry, 3BR, 2.5BA, formal dining, family room and breakfast nook, hardwoods, chef's kitchen.
HAL CASTLE-SMC. 339-8900 x 220

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4BR, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, formal dining, huge living and family room, vaulted ceilings, Gourmet kitchen, see and compare. Open Sunday.
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8 YEAR OLD TRADITIONAL - BAY VIEW.....\$539,000
Spectacular master retreat with city view - large fenced yard, quiet st, 2 frpls, 3BR, 2BA, FDR, rumpus rm, workout rm, family rm, htdwd flrs - Open Sun. LOIS C. JOHNSON 339-8900 x 226

HORSE PROPERTY IN OAKLAND.....\$499,000
10.3 Acres surrounded by park. Room for barn, riding arena, dogs & much more. Rustic 2BR cabin. SUE WILLIAMS 339-8900 x 229

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.....\$485,000
Crocker Highlands elegant traditional home with rose garden. 4BR, 2BA, formal dining room, 1st flr entry, level yard with majestic oak and maple trees. 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors.
HELEN NICHOLAS 339-8900 x 238

Here to you home.

LIVE/WORK LUXURY SPACE IN PARK.....\$399,000
Level in 3500 sq. ft., 4-BR, 3.5BA, extra large master flowing into Chabot Park. Serene, private 2 huge bedrooms for dance, art, media, etc. Chef's new Viking kitchen. D.C. HODGES 339-8900 x 223

PRESTIGE, PRIVACY, PRICE.....\$399,000
Spacious 6 year old Mediterranean Villa in planned Oakland Hills development, 3BR, 2+BA, over 2000 sq. ft., custom finishes, private patio and many other custom finish.
MEL COPLAND 339-8900 x 255

NEW LISTING.....\$379,500
4BR, 3BA, extra large rooms, fireplace, double decks among mature oaks, overlooking huge Thornhill Canyon needs TLC, seller credit for updates.
ED LINDORFER 339-8900 x 241

GLENVIEW REMODELING.....\$289,000
Hardwood flooring, formal dining, remodeled kitchen, tiled baths, tiled laundry, attached garage, level out rear fenced yard. Close to Glenview Village.
HAL CASTLE 339-8900 x 220

RIDGEMONT.....\$689,000
Resort living on over 1/2 acre. Landscaped English gardens with pool, spa, cabana, 3 bedrooms for dance, art, media, etc. Chef's new Viking kitchen. D.C. HODGES 339-8900 x 223

MONTCLAIR 9 YEAR OLD HOME.....\$485,000
3356 sq. ft. of luxury living. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 fireplaces, 2 car garage, move-in condition. Truly Montclair's best buy.
CAROL COHEN 339-8900 x 225

MONTCLAIR'S ONLY CONDO.....\$139,000
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DAVID LYONS

Before getting into the subject of market value, let's talk a little arm-chair psychology. The value of your home falls into the same category as your weight, age, earning potential, and your child's intelligence. It's a touchy subject. We all have a definite number in our minds and are not usually in the market for a different opinion.

As with these other items, if we are lucky there is an ample supply of friends and others who will tell us what we want to hear. It is soothing to associate with these folks. It feels good. It makes us feel that we may have gotten a 'deal' when we bought our home. Even more than this, we are allowed to dream about the price our home might bring and mentally spend that added income on our favorite fantasy items. It's a fun game and probably a sign of mental health to engage in a certain amount of this type of self-indulgence.

How about value?

Now, we can talk value. It's a hard world and the only way to determine the true value of your home is to sell it. This is what is meant when it is said that the market is the sole determinant of value.

You put up a 'For Sale' sign, legions of people march through looking into your closets and making insensitive comments you're not supposed to hear, and eventually you agree on a price with someone. That price, all other things being equal, is the value of your home. If you are happy with the outcome, then you are among the fortunate.

Market value in a hard world

Let's talk loans

You want to borrow money using your home as collateral. The lender naturally wants to know the value of your home (and how much you still owe on it) in order to determine how much money to lend you. One way to convince the lender of your home's value would be to sell it. It would be a hard world indeed if this were required.

Fortunately, there is another way. Of course, no alternate method can determine the true value of your home. But it can come close, usually within about five per cent. This other method is called an appraisal and while it will not tell you the value of your home, it will tell you the market value, which should be a reasonable approximation. Lenders use market value as the basis for lending. They ask a licensed, disinterested party to determine it for them. This is where the appraiser comes in.

Market value is defined as the most probable price which a property should bring in a competitive and open market under all conditions requisite to a fair sale, the buyer and seller, each acting prudently, knowledgeably and assuming the price is not affected by undue stimulus.

If you are still reading after wading through that definition, bear with me while I examine it for a minute. All the conditions in the definition are there because long and bitter experience of human interaction has dictated they be spelled out. In fact, that definition is telling us several things.

Namely: people have been known to control markets in such a way that they are not open and competitive (such as redlining). They have interfered with conditions requisite to a fair sale (such as failing to disclose detrimental conditions like dry rot or inadequate foundations).

Buyers and sellers have been known to act imprudently (such as buying from an unscrupulous relative or selling a property for too low a price because you happen to like the buyers); and prices have been affected by undue stimulus (such as large bonuses from developers to early buyers in new subdivisions in order to stimulate public interest).

Here's how appraisers determine market value. First, they assume that your home has been on the market recently. Next, they find at least three recent closed sales which

comparables and have adjusted all their sale prices. Finally, they look at the adjusted sale prices. If the comparables are pretty similar to your home and if the adjustments are reasonable approximations to the way in which most people think when they are pricing a home, a pattern should emerge. The appraiser should be able to say with confidence that your home's market value would lie in a fairly narrow range.

Unfortunately, lenders want a single number. If you are an ap-

As a homeowner, you may be convinced that the appraiser's number may not be exactly right. You could prove him wrong by selling your home. It's a hard world.

comply with conditions in the definition of market value and which are most similar to your home. They also consider at recent listings and currently pending sales of homes like yours.

Then, they get all the best comparable properties lined up on a grid along with your own home and start comparing. Maybe one of them has a three car garage and your home has only a two car garage. They adjust the sale price of the other home by taking a little off in the belief that most people would pay a little more for that larger garage.

Maybe another home has only two and one half baths whereas your home has three full baths. They adjust its sale price by adding a little in the belief that most people would pay a little more for a full third bath. They keep this procedure up until they have considered all the important differences between your home and the

praiser, you are required to select a single number within this range. This is the point at which you will often offend the homeowner. Such is life. If you don't have the stomach for calmly sticking to your diligent analysis in the face of often emotional opposition, you should think seriously about a career change.

As a homeowner, you may be convinced that the appraiser's number may not be exactly right. You could find some good comparable properties which the appraiser has overlooked and ask that the market value be reconsidered. Failing this, you could prove him wrong by selling your home. It's a hard world.

David Lyons is a State Certified Residential Appraiser, a State Accredited Affiliate of the Appraisal Institute. He owns East Bay Appraisal Service in Berkeley and can be reached at 525-6683.

Consumers Union invites you to get educated

Consumers Union is launching a two-year campaign to teach San Francisco Bay area homeowners about dangerous and sometimes fraudulent home equity loans that can leave them penniless or homeless.

The nonprofit organization has published brochures in English and Spanish on home equity fraud and reverse mortgages. It is also offering seminars around the Bay area to teach homeowners how to avoid home equity loan scams.

Norma Garcia, a Consumers

Union attorney who wrote the brochures and will lead the seminars, said today, "Home equity lending is already big business, and it's growing as real estate prices rise dramatically in the Bay area."

"While some loans can help consumers, others only lead to dangerous debt and foreclosure for the 'cash-poor, equity-rich.'"

Consumers Union published a report in 1995 that showed that seniors, low-income families, widows and widowers and minorities were often targets of

scams that coaxed homeowners with a lot of equity into taking loans with high interest rates, points and fees — regardless of their ability to pay.

Consumers Union is also working with other organizations to create seminars for seniors. The group will also work with neighborhood groups or individuals who want to set up a seminar. Next year Consumers Union will train organizations to hold their own seminars.

In addition, the group has compiled a list of low- or no-cost loan programs around the Bay area that help homeowners make home improvements.

The nonprofit organization Consumer's Union has published brochures in English and Spanish on home equity fraud and reverse mortgages.

Anyone interested in a brochure or a seminar is asked to call Norma Garcia at (415) 431-6747.

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ARCHITECTURE AND HOMES

JOHN PLOSS, AIA

Architecture's cruel test

The other day I was discussing an investment theory that involves buying "shadow stocks." My friend said that theory was put to a cruel test. When I asked what this cruel test was he told me that a mutual fund was started using that philosophy.

The cruel part is that the theories were applied and the results were then there to measure. All of the seductiveness of a theory was reduced to the cold numbers of financial returns.

While architecture can never be evaluated in the simple terms of internal rate of return or return on investment — it does have its cruel tests.

These tests follow the same course as the investments, a theory gains favor is put into application and either gains favor or loses some of its luster when a large number of buildings are built by applying that philosophy. If it gains favor it is over used until it then loses luster.

The last twenty years has seen two major cruel tests, one has run its course of being tested and then finding some significant detractors because the theories were applied with some flaws. The other is just finding favor and has not yet developed a strong backlash.

The first test was Post Modernism led by the seemingly unstoppable Michael Graves. The second test is De Constructivism led by a band of architects from LA and headed by the current golden boy of architecture Frank Gehry.

Post Modernism was a rebellion against the sterility of modern architecture — partly because the average person never liked it and partially because architects found modernism boring.

The result was an interesting assortment of buildings some an exuberant mixing of old and new architectural elements and some were in traditional styles. (it should be noted that terms like Post Modernism and De Constructivism don't really have a firm definition but are used in reference to a whole range of styles are sometimes quite different.)

Post Modernism in San Francisco could often look like a cartoon of some of the fine old buildings that we already have. The problem of poorly quality of finish of contemporary buildings vs. earlier buildings added tamish to the contemporary work.

However reinterpreting the forms of past buildings created some new

See PLOSS on page C-7

Piedmont crown jewel on market

By Mark Wilson

One of the many reasons Piedmont is considered such a desirable place to live is the outstanding quality and architectural integrity of its grand historic homes. These attributes certainly apply to the house at 211 Sandringham Road in upper Piedmont, which has just come on the market this month.

Oakland architect William A. Schirmer designed this spacious, three-level home in 1934. It is an outstanding example of a Normandy Revival style manor house, a popular mode with sophisticated, well-to-do home builders in the 1920s

and '30s. The exterior of 211 Sandringham Road entices passersby with its curb appeal, and its considerable charm.

From the sidewalk, one notices the many authentic historic features that are part of the Normandy Revival style. There are multiple peaked gables with barge boards on the south end; a chateau-like central tower with a slate-covered roof; an octagonal, towered tearoom in the front, with a tall spire topped by a finial; a brick, Flemish stepped gable above the front entrance; an overhang along the west facade; half-timbering on all the upper walls; and three sets of decorated

chimneys.

The lot covers one third of an acre, and it has been beautifully landscaped by its current owners. Stone paths lead to the front door and the tearoom through lovely gardens, with lush flower beds and fragrant flowering bushes.

Upon entering 211 Sandringham, you are surrounded by the old world charm of its many historically accurate features. The two-story entry hall has a grand oak staircase with carved newel posts, half-timbered walls, an ornate hanging metal light fixture, and a beamed ceiling with a newly restored original skylight.

A Gothic-arched doorway leads into a large living room on the right. The massive beams have a fleur-de-lille design on their medallion braces, (a motif found on all the original hardware throughout the house). The fireplace has concrete columns and a shield along the mantelpiece.

Off the west side of the living room is a solarium, added by the current owners during an extensive remodeling of the house that was finished in 1993. Like all the rest, the remodeling they did, the sunroom integrates well with the historic architectural features of the

See JEWEL on page C-7



Designed in 1934, this spacious three-level home is an outstanding example of a Normandy Revival style manor, a popular mode with sophisticated, well-to-do home builders in the 1920s and '30s.

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Ploss

Continued from page C7

forms and generated many buildings of significance. The reasons for a rebellion away from modernism remain and buildings generated from this rebellion continue to add valuable discourse in the current architectural debate.

De Constructivism is a playful twisted modernism, but to many it will just look like more of the modernism that we have seen in the past. The most famous current building is the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, Spain designed by Frank Gehry.

Based on the pictures it looks like it is one of the most significant buildings in recent memory. Some are saying that Gehry is the most interesting architect in the world and a great innovator. They may be right, but De Constructivism is on its way to be tarnished the same way as Post

Modernism. It is only a matter of time.

The problem with the academic architectural thinking is that it is always looking for the correct style which never existed and never will exist. We are a society that loves innovation and a new idea but a wonderful new idea that is over copied loses its power. The other problem is that different approaches suit the requirements of different projects.

There is no perfect style of architecture just as there is no personality that would be perfect for all people. All buildings being generated from the same ideas is as boring and silly as all people thinking the same way.

John Ploss is a San Francisco architect with 20 years experience who specializes in residential work. Call him at (415) 626-8790.



TARPOFF & TALBERT

Number 241 in a series of true experiences in real estate

It is always a surprise to us that sellers ask our advice, then fight us when we give it. It doesn't make sense. If they went to a dentist with a toothache and his advice was a root canal, would these people say, "No, you're wrong. I'll just brush that tooth well?"

It seems doubtful. They might want to ask another dentist what he thinks, maybe several dentists if what they really want is someone who thinks brushing works as well or better than a root canal. But it seems to me that a thinking person goes to the trouble of asking for

Puzzling over unheeded advice

advice because he wants to know what the expert will say. He may choose not to follow the advice but he won't deny that it exists. Otherwise, why bother?

We talked to a seller not long ago

"Maybe the buyer won't notice" he said. Then, moving along his path rapidly, he added, "I don't think a buyer will care."

This seller had stopped being a worrier and had become a defender.

It seems to me that a thinking person goes to the trouble of asking for advice because he wants to know what the expert will say.

who pointed out to us a number of things about his house that cause him concern. He worries about the mismatched linoleum squares in the recreation room, something he's intended to fix but hasn't. He says the blistered finish on the deck off the living room looks bad, so maybe he should strip it and apply new waterproofing. His roof hasn't been replaced in more than 25 years. "How important do you think these things are?" he asks, then says, "The roof isn't leaking."

We said that to some degree all of these things will influence the price he will get, but the roof is surely the most important. When we had arrived at the house that day, we'd noticed that the roof looked bare in many spots. Others will notice too.

Also, leaking or not, a 25 year old roof is near the end of its life. A buyer will expect compensation for it. Why not replace it now when it is possible to choose the roofer, compare bids, and be done with it?

He'd asked what we thought. Now he was telling us we were wrong.

Not that these things are cast in stone. There is a chance, for example, that a buyer will appear who is unconcerned about the roof. Very unlikely, but possible. We said this to the seller.

We also said "Anything about your house that you can fix, especially things that may become negotiating issues, you should fix. This doesn't mean making your house like new. This doesn't mean spending money you don't have. It does mean doing what you can to eliminate points of concern, to anticipate potential problems and head them off at the pass."

Here's a way to consider getting ready to sell. Suppose you've been driving your car for many years. You've taken pretty good care of it but it's getting old and you plan to replace it.

What will you do to get the car ready for sale? You'll probably wash it and clean out the inside.

You know clean makes a difference. You'll probably hunt up the servicing sheets from the mechanic and any manuals you have on the car. The new owner will want these.

What about the radio that's on the frit? If you can afford to and you have the time, installing a new radio will eliminate any conversation about it — except that you'll point out that it's brand new. How much will this cost you? \$100 installed? How much would the buyer have expected to take off the price if you hadn't put in a new one?

You can see how the process works. Let's say that the rings are worn. (I know very little about cars. I'm making all this up.) If you tell the person who's interested in the

See TARPOFF on page C8

Real Estate Mailbag

Editor:

Just wanted to thank you for placing the Tarpo & Talbert column on the front page of The Montclair real estate section recently. Such excellent writing deserves a position of prominence.

The column is often witty, always heartfelt and informative. I must confess that it is the first place I go when reading your paper.

Mike Haley
Oakland

To call the real estate editor call 339-4047.



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The Ghirardelli house, offered for the first time: a grand old Tuscan style home, in a secluded creekside setting. A long winding drive brings one to lawns, gardens and the entry pergola. 11 rooms. Tower room at the top. Paul Templeton ext. 131 \$1,100,000

BERKELEY

45 SOUTHAMPTON, Open Sun 2-4. Elegantly updated traditional with large lot, level entry, and Bay views! 4BR, 3.5BA, sun room, den, kitchen/family room, and formal dining room. The attached garages provide interior access. Bebe McRae ext. 145 \$1,000,000

PASTORAL SPLENDOR! This 4BR, 3BA home has been beautifully updated with a Bennett Christopherson kitchen and marble master bath! Bebe McRae ext. 145. \$850,000

UPPER THOUSAND OAKS. John Hinkel's home! Sunny lawns, pond, creek! 4BR incl. a lower suite with separate entrance, gourmet kitchen. The garage is on the cul-de-sac below. Bebe McRae ext. 145 \$850,000

NORTH BERKELEY HALF ACRE PARADISE ON A PRIVATE DRIVE. This shingled contemporary residence combines elegant entertaining areas with warm inviting spaces for family living. 3BR, 2BA, study, artist's loft, separate au pair studio. Lush landscape, deck & views. Marlene Leverette ext. 121 \$595,000

948 SANTA BARBARA, Open Sun 2-5. Wonderful grand Tudor with Bay views! 4BR, 3.5BA, sunny deck, family rm, workshop, att'd garage. Bebe McRae ext. 145 \$595,000

DESIRABLE THOUSAND OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD. Stunning views, home with character & numerous upgrades. Granite kitchen counters, white washed cabinets. Versatile floor plan, 4BR & 2BA. Ruth Rayner Frassetto ext. 147 \$459,500

1711 CURTIS, Open Sun 2-4. Distinctive & charming Open & airy! 1BR, 1BA, private, cozy yard. Bay view from deck upstairs. Anne Van Dyke ext. 137. \$249,000

3039 ACTON, Open Sat. 2-4:30. Charming & sweet. Price reduced! 2BR, 1BA. Lovely yard, nice spaces, much potential! Anne Van Dyke ext. 137 \$135,000

OAKLAND

EXCITING NEW CONSTRUCTION on a very large lot Canyon & Bay views. Custom detailed 4BR, 4BA, gourmet kitchen/family room, den & formal dining room. Bebe McRae ext. 145 \$925,000

ROCKRIDGE "LANDMARK" VICTORIAN. Authentically restored with quality & elegance! 4BR, 2+BA, sun room, 2 parlors, double lot, updated kitchen! Bebe McRae ext. 145 \$875,000

KENSINGTON

A WONDERFUL TRADITIONAL with 3BR, 1.5BA upstairs, and a spacious living room, formal dining room, upgraded kitchen, half bath, plus room on the main level. Bay views, enclosed level yard, garage, lots of storage. Anne Van Dyke ext. 137 \$395,000

EL CERRITO

MOVE IN CONDITION. Hardwood floors. Huge sunny yard. 2BR, 1.5BA. Walk to BART, Fat Apples. Mary Montali ext. 132 \$219,500

RICHMOND VIEW

RANCH STYLE LIVING only 20 minutes from Berkeley. Two-thirds acre adjacent to Wildcat Canyon trails. Brown shingle country home, 5BR, 3BA, family room, greenhouse, barn, corral, toolshed, spa and more. Not to be missed! Ron Eggherman ext. 127 \$479,000

PACIFIC UNION RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

HOMES OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30

33 Sharon Avenue, Piedmont - 4bd/3+ba.....\$1,295,000
New listing! Elegant traditional in central location. SF bay view, entertainment ctr w/tpcl, beautifully landscaped. Martha Holstow

6170 Mazuela Drive, Montclair - 5bd/4ba.....\$1,100,000
New listing! Gorgeous new construction with stunning style. Cherry, limestone & granite, 3 frpls, kit/lam rm. Patricia Scott

66 Hampton Road, Piedmont - 4bd/5+ba.....\$1,050,000
High quality home in central location. Level in/out, 3 master suites, au pair with sep entry, cozy den, rec room. Kathleen Callahan

8 Pala Avenue, Piedmont - 4bd/3ba.....\$698,000
New listing! Gracious prairie style family home in the heart of Piedmont. Solarium, formal dining, deck with spa. Bonnie Hirsch

255 Scenic Avenue, Piedmont - 3bd/3ba.....\$695,000
New listing! Luxurious custom home with SF bay & canyon views, gourmet kitchen & lam rm. Expansion approved! Rosalie Woods

736 Mountain Blvd., Montclair - 3+bd/3ba.....\$648,000
New & spacious, with perfect floor plan, kit/lam room, luxurious master suite, large yard, convenient location. Michelle Vasey

2076 Leimert Blvd., Oakmore - 4bd/3ba.....\$499,000
New listing! Sweeping SF/Oakland bay view, master suite, 2 fireplaces, lam rm, decks, patio, yard, garage. Donna DeBardi

6831 Aitken Drive, Montclair - 4bd/3ba.....\$465,000
New listing! Fabulous remodeled home with top quality improvements. Family room plus rumpus. Francis Heath

4232 Ridgemoor Ct., Ridgemoor - 3bd/2ba.....\$459,000
New listing! Spacious home with private pool & spa, master retreat w/tpcl, lam rm leads to beautiful back yard. Kathy Flynn

5840 St. Paul Ct., Upper Rockridge - 4bd/2ba.....\$449,000
New listing! Beautiful split level traditional on extra large lot in prime location. Updated kitchen, level back yard. Joan Hause

6121 Castle Drive, Montclair - 4bd/2ba.....\$419,000
New listing! SF bay view contemporary on private 1/4 acre lot. 2BD/1BA on each level, recreation rm, tile roof. Wendy Gardner

2144 Mastlands Drive, Montclair - 4bd/3+ba.....\$399,000
Close-in location on quiet wooded street. Flexible floor plan, kit/family room combo, rec room, 2-car garage. Wendy Gardner

1601 Arrowhead Drive, Montclair - 3bd/2ba.....\$379,000
New listing! All level contemporary with vaulted ceilings, hndw floors, expanses of serene, view-filled windows. Kirk Philips

6889 Bristol Drive, Oakland Hills - 3bd/2ba.....\$369,000
New listing! New construction, 1800 sq. ft., fireplace, light & airy, kitchen opens to patio, master suite, fabulous value! Dick Cohen

6660 Banning Drive, Montclair - 3+bd/2ba.....\$329,000
New listing! Convenient close-in contemporary with flexible floor plan. Family room or 4th bedroom on lower level. Sally Morrison

2724 Mountain, Joaquin Miller - 3bd/2ba.....\$299,000
All offers considered! Meticulous, all level traditional with custom finishes, great outdoor space, 2-car garage. Sandi Klemmer

2692 Camino Lenada, Montclair - 3+bd/2ba.....\$289,000
Piedmont Pines contemporary in private oak tree setting. Updated eat-in kit, formal dining, walk to shopping & parks. Wendy Gardner

3357 Guido St., Redwood Heights - 3bd/1+ba.....\$282,500
New listing! Enchanting English with wood detailing throughout. Charming kit overlooks large beautiful garden. Lee Jacobson

34 Clarewood Lane, Rockridge - 1+bd/1+ba.....\$249,000
New listing! Updated townhouse with SF bay view. New carpet & paint, eat-in kit, spacious master suite, 2-car garage. Robyn Mohr

57 Thousand Oaks, Sequoyah Hts - 3bd/2+ba.....\$230,000
New listing! Updated townhouse with SF bay view. New carpet & paint, eat-in kit, spacious master suite, 2-car garage. Robyn Mohr

3633 Harbor View Ave., Redwood Hts - 2bd/1ba.....\$229,000
New listing! Original details, hndw floors, formal dining, eat-in kitchen, family room, storage, attached garage. Lee Jacobson

3539 Glen Park Road, Glenview - 2bd/1ba.....\$189,000
New listing! Bright, spacious, well maintained home in convenient location. Hndw floors, formal dining, large garage. Nancy Moore

BY APPOINTMENT

ULTIMATE PRIVACY & LUXURY.....\$874,000
Built on 1.4 acres surrounded by miles of parkland. 5BD/3BA, soaring ceilings, elegant great room, formal dining, all quality materials. Helen Danhaki 547-5750

UPPER ROCKRIDGE VIEW HOME.....\$799,000
Distinctive home, rich with design features and breathtaking views of SF & bay. Main 3BD/2+BA, large home office, showplace kitchen, deck, patio and level back yard. David Ichikawa

EXPANSIVE, GRACIOUS NEW HOME.....\$795,000
Classically proportioned spaces with thoughtfully selected designer colors, fixtures & detailing. 4BD/3BA, including master wing, vistas from nearly every room, large back yard. David Ichikawa

ORINDA SCHOOLS, OAKLAND COMMUTE!...\$599,000
Large 5BD/4BA home on 1/3 acre, completely fenced for ultimate privacy. Panoramic views of SF and Orinda hills. Needs some TLC. Michelle Vasey.

CUSTOM HILLER TOWNHOUSE.....\$595,000
Gorgeous end unit, many upgrades, Golden Gate Bay views, decks, patio, 2-car garage + extra off street parking. Dee Knowland

PRIVATE GARDEN SETTING.....\$549,000
Exquisite contemporary with casual elegance & bay views. 4BD/3+BA including 2 bdrm suites, fabulous eat-in kitchen/family rm, oak floors throughout. Wendy Gardner

A TRESTLE GLEN TREASURE.....\$339,000
This home is full of warmth & light. Enjoy the pleasures of city living in a serene, beautiful setting. 3BD/2BA, city views, walk to Lakeshore & Grand Avenues. Joan Dark

PIEDMONT AVENUE TRIPLEX.....\$325,000
Charming triplex with roomy one bedroom flats, 2 fireplaces, 2 dining rooms, yard and redwood trees. Lee Jacobson

CROCKER HIGHLANDS TRADITIONAL...\$289,000
This refurbished home offers 3BD/1+BA, freshly painted inside & out, new kitchen and roof, refinished hardwood floors, new bath with spa tub. Jeffrey Himmel

BRIGHT CONDOMINIUM - BERKELEY....\$179,000
Beautiful Victorian upper unit on historic block of Fourth Street, just steps to great shopping. 2BD/1BA, fireplace, high ceilings. Carolyn Jones

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Jewel

Continued from page C6

original house. The floor is made of attractive green slate tiles. The windows are metal-latticed, and they frame a handsome Bay view, with the Golden Gate Bridge in the distance and the Oakland skyline in the foreground.

There is a library off the living room, and it also has a beamed ceiling. There are finely-made, original built-in bookcases, and wood-latticed windows with a nice Bay view.

The dining room is on the south wing of the ground floor. It has a coffered, boxed beamed ceiling, with the original, colorful, geometric stenciled patterns. The curtain rods have a fleur-de-lille pattern, and the windows look out past the treetops towards the Bay.

To the left of the entry hall is the charming tearoom, within the octagonal walls of a towered wing at the front of the house. The windows here are finely latticed, and there is a door that opens onto a lovely garden and a stone path leading to the street.

A French country-style kitchen occupies the south end of the ground floor. It was remodeled in 1992 by the designer Bill Kendrick. The cabinets are of whitewashed red oak, and some have old-style glass doors. The floor here is covered with the same pretty green slate tiles, and there is an original tiled arch over the kitchen stove.

A breakfast room off the kitchen opens onto a deck with a San Francisco skyline view. The back yard retains its original stone steps and pathways, and a mature rose garden. It also has an arbor and a pond.

Downstairs there is a large playroom with its own original fireplace, which is faced with slate tiles. This playroom has a built-in refrigerator. Adjacent to it is a child's bedroom, which leads onto a concrete, salmon-colored deck with access to the back yard. There is also an "arts and crafts room" downstairs, as well as a computer room, a full bath, a laundry room, lots of storage, and an extra legal bedroom with full bath at the south end of this level.

Upstairs is the master suite, with lovely Bay views. It has a luxury bath, with a soaking tub and pink, white-washed tiles on the floor. The bedroom has a large walk-in closet. All of the doorways to the rooms upstairs have stucco, Mediterranean arches, (as do many of the doorways on the main level).

At the north end of the third floor, there is a guest room with a coffered ceiling above the bed. An original Art Deco style guest bathroom nearby still has its old black-and-butter-yellow tiles, a round, glass-enclosed shower stall, and a porcelain sink and bathtub.

The house at 211 Sandringham has twelve rooms on its three floors, with four-plus bedrooms and four-and-one-half bathrooms. It contains a total of 4,397 square feet of living space, and there is a large two-car garage with interior access.

This elegant Normandy Revival Manor is being offered for sale for \$1,395,000. Showings will be by appointment only. Contact the listing agent, Sherri Oakley, at Prudential California Real Estate in Piedmont. She can be reached at her office at 428-0900, on her voice mail at 644-5424.



4300 Fruitvale Avenue

Oakland pioneer and rancher Frederick Rhoda's historic Fruitvale Avenue home with its signature Queen Ann turret is on the market.

Fruitvale Avenue's stately Queen Ann

In 1886, rancher Frederick Rhoda built a stately Queen Anne Victorian at the top of Oakland's Fruitvale Avenue. Born in Prussia in 1810, Rhoda brought his family to San Francisco and then to what became Fruitvale. Rhoda bought a very fertile and profitable 600-acre ranch from Alfred Luelling, who had introduced fruit trees to the Pacific Coast in 1847.

The ranch encompassed the area now bounded by MacArthur Bou-

levard on the south, Dimond Avenue on the west, Lincoln Avenue on the east and Dimond Canyon on the north. In 1860, Fruitvale Avenue was a dusty wagon road. In fact, it was the trail from the valley beyond the Oakland hills to the San Francisco Bay, where the native peoples would travel to get their salt. This ancient trail wound up Fruitvale Avenue to Lincoln and through the then large groves of redwoods and over to Moraga Val-

ley. Rhoda built his home at the top of Fruitvale Avenue as a headquarters for his large fruit ranch. The house on the hill that later became a dairy farm.

This spacious home with unlimited vistas and beautiful grounds is now on the market. For more information call Betty Ballesterieri at The Grubb Co., 339-0400.

Tarpoiff

Continued from page C7

car it has worn rings, you'll get one of two responses: "Oh. Thanks. Bye." Or, "Well, I might be interested in buying at a lower price."

What if you had an estimate from your mechanic for replacing the rings? You don't replace them but you have a dollar amount attached to fixing the problem. Now you can say to an interested buyer, "My mechanic has given me this bid for new rings when they're needed. I've priced the car accordingly."

People want to know what they're buying. Not everyone is in the market for an older car but some people are. Your chances of selling to one of

them grow greater when you can demonstrate what you are offering.

It goes for houses too. Clean helps considerably. Repairs and upgrades may make all the difference. Receipts and warranties of work already completed, also bids for such things as replacing an old roof or broken down furnace provide a baseline, a dollar number from which to work. These allow a buyer to make an informed offer. He's not operating in the dark and neither are you.

That's our advice.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoiff are licensed agents and area specialists who also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached at 653-2050.

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New listing! One of a kind Albany 3 bedroom, 2 bath home for the "Young at Heart." Spiffy, unconventional with large decks, garden and separate studio. Sunny kitchen. Solano shops and library a few blocks away. Not a drive-by.

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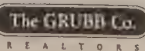
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Architect J. Allen Sayles
Approx. 6,628 square feet

Offered at \$1,600,000



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301 El Cerrito Ave., Piedmont

Bay views, large yard, 2BD/1+BA, and three "plus" rooms.

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Garden Areas.
Only: \$240,000

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• **OAKLAND - OAKMORE WITH SF BAY VIEW**, Custom Contemporary
3BD/2.5BA, Family Room with Wet Bar, 2Fpis, Level yd. ONLY: \$349,500

• **OAKLAND - MONTCLAIR BARGAIN**, Upslope Contemporary, 4BD/2.5BA,
Level Side Yard, Needs Cosmetics..... ASKING: \$339,000

• **OAKLAND HILLS - SEQUAOYAH HIGHLANDS**, 3BD/2BA, Plus lower
Level Bonus Room, Nice Patio and Rear Yard ONLY: \$265,000

• **OAKLAND - VIEW OF THE HILLS**, 2BD/1BA, Large Level Rear Yard,
Garage Converted to Family Room..... PRICED TO SELL: \$153,000



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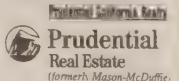
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Fixed rates up; ARM index falls

On the April 30 Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Review, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 7.22 percent, with fees and points averaging 1.1 percent. This bellwether rate is up 5 basis points from last week's average of 7.15 percent. In the first week of May 1997, the year fixed averaged 8.01 percent.

The start rate for the one-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 5.69 percent with fees averaging 1.1 percent, up 5 basis points from last week's average of 5.64 percent. This time last year this rate averaged 5.86 percent.

This week's average for 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, a popular option in the refinancing market, rose 7 basis points to 6.85 percent from last week's average of 6.78 percent. Fees and points averaged 1.1 percent. A year ago, 15-year fixed averaged 7.53 percent.

Reports that the Federal Reserve might soon raise interest rates spurred a rise in mortgage rates," said Freddie Mac principal economist James Berkovec.

However, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflator and employment numbers just

released point to low inflation and a very low interest rate environment, which should quell any concerns that the Federal Reserve Bank may take action."

Freddie Mac is a stockholder-owned corporation chartered by Congress in 1970 to create a continuous flow of funds to mortgage lenders.

The organization supplies lenders with the money to make mortgages and then packages these mortgages into marketable securities.

In this way Freddie Mac sustains a stable mortgage credit system and reduces the mortgage rates paid by home buyers.

Over the years, Freddie Mac has opened the doors for one in

six home buyers and two million renters in America.

More information about Freddie Mac can be found on the company's Web site, www.freddiemac.com.

Updates on the latest Freddie Mac averages are available each Thursday after noon. Call toll free 888-780-2060 for updates.

On Apr. 30 the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco pegged the 11th District Cost of Funds Index (COFI) for May 1998 payments at 4.917 percent down from the 4.968 percent in effect for April 1998 payments.

The COFI is the index widely used by the savings and loan industry for its adjustable rate mortgages.


Sallie Mae information

A free brochure providing an overview of the college financial aid process is available from Sallie Mae. The brochure includes a step-by-step road map on applying for aid as well as advice on saving for college and coping with tuition. For a free copy, call Sallie Mae at (800) 806-3681.


Sallie Mae's site on the Internet, www.salliemae.com, is perhaps the most comprehensive source of free information on college financing. Federally chartered and stockholder owned, Sallie Mae is the nation's leading source of financing for higher education.

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14 CHANCELLOR PLACE \$825,000
Premium new Mediterranean. Panoramic views, sheltered court, gourmet kitchen w/ w/ frpl. Opens to great spaces for entertaining. Fabulous mstr suite, & study. Peter Nicopolos 339-9780




7020 DEVON WAY \$710,000
New home Claremont Hills. 5+BD/3.5BA. Panoramic canyon, Golden Gate views. Gourmet kitchen with built-in refrigerator. Professional landscaped and fenced, level yard areas. Quiet cul-de-sac. Carrie Craig 357-7772

123 PARKSIDE DRIVE, BERKELEY \$730,000
Well designed J. H. Thomas craftsman, 4BD, den, 3.5BA, large kitchen, gracious living and dining rooms, 2 fireplaces, private garden and 2-car garage. Patsy Butler ext. 238

7075 EXETER \$419,000
Serene house, wonderful for extended family. Flexible floor plan. Deck, master suite, lots of light. 5BD/3BA. Barbara Rossler ext. 264

5053 TRASK - Maxwell Park Mediterranean fixer with charm! 3BD with unique family room plus master BD - vaulted beam ceiling \$138,000
& built-ins. Needs work with potential! Kate Philips 436-4100


SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT




EXPAND INTO YOUR DREAM HOME \$689,000
2.85 Acre site with view on private road of estates. 3BD/2BA one level home can easily be expanded up or out. Pool and separate building for office or artist studio. Noli Davis 531-9536



PIEDMONT WITH CHARM \$539,000
1924 Traditional 4BD/3BA family home with natural woods, wainscoting, crown moldings, gorgeous fireplace. Huge master BD suite. Fabulous backyard with level lawn. Don Dunning 482-2256



NEW LISTING - 3 YEAR OLD CONSTRUCTION \$575,000
4+BD/3.5BA with 3 fireplaces, family room, gourmet kitchen. Nearly 3000 sq. ft. plus storage loft. SF bay view too. Open to offer. Frank Hennefer 654-6461



HOUSE WITH A HISTORY! \$309,000
Stunning Tudor built-in 1904 and moved to present location around 1930. 5+BD/2+BA in Historic Adams Point. Heidi Tuggle 531-4554

ELEGANT SPANISH MEDITERRANEAN \$780,000
Panoramic Bay views. Immaculate 5BD/4BA executive level home with oversized rooms. 2+ fireplaces, formal dining room & family room. A must see, call listing agent for appointment. Holda Novelo ext. 246

ELEGANT TRADITIONAL \$283,000
Old World Charm abounds! Beamed ceilings, beautiful stained glass formal dining room large kitchen with separate breakfast room. A must see. 3+BR/1.5BA. Heidi Tuggle 531-4554

OWNER OCCUPY OR INVEST \$325,000
In this very clean brown shingle duplex plus non-conforming studio. Spacious units. 3BD/1BA and 2BD/1BA have laundry rooms, all units have decks with back yard access. Great Piedmont Ave. location. Mary Neuberger 530-4148

JACK LONDON'S HOME - FROM 1898-1900 \$175,000
Oakland landmark. Travel back in time, Queen Anne Victorian, lots of charm. 2 story with full basement. Priceless historical value! Frank Hennefer 654-6461

NEAR ROCKRIDGE & PIEDMONT AVE. \$309,500
Lovely 2BD, 2.5BA brown shingle townhome conveniently located near shops. Bay view, master suite with whirlpool tub, eat-in kitchen with hardwood floors. Over 1700 sq. ft. Don Dunning 482-2256.

ADAMS POINT TOWNHOUSE. \$148,000
Mediterranean with 40's architectural details. Filtered view. Huge master bedroom. Fireplace and garage. Noli Davis ext. 263

NEW LISTING! Why pay rent! Own a condo for investment and save \$\$. Spacious 1BD in desirable Adams point building \$55,000
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EVENTS

The Events Calendar does not accept for-profit listings. Announcements for these events can be made in our classified section by calling 339-8777. Listings are made on a space available basis.

Treat your mother to the Orchid Society of California's free **Mother's Day Show and Sale** Fri., May 8, Sat. May 9 and Mother's Day, May 10. The show, held at the Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave. in Oakland, features a wide variety of orchids to treat the novice and the discriminating collector. For more information call 839-9647.

The College Preparatory School invites you to the **New Neighborhood House Tour and Raffle** Sat., May 9. Tickets for the self-guided tour of 11 fabulous homes are \$30. Call 652-6829 for more information.

The nonprofit Building Education Center (BEC), 812 Page St., Berkeley is the place to start your dream home or to start turning your home into a dream. On Sat., May 9, the center presents **Drywall: Hands-On** with builder-designer Andrus Brandt, **How to Prevent Homeowner Nightmares**, a dispute prevention and early resolution seminar with contractor-mediator Ron Kelly and **Painting Tricks of the Trade** with painting contractor Scott Perry. On Sun., May 10, builder-designer Andrus Brandt presents **Drywall Finishes Hands-On** and the Urban Farmer Tom Bressan will teach the art of **Landscape Watering Systems**. Call BEC at 525-7610 for more information about its schedule of classes.

Oakland's One-Stop Capital Shop (OSCS), 519 17th St. in Oakland, provides a series of free and low-cost small-business development workshops available to the public on an ongoing basis. On Tues., May 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. OSCS presents the free workshop **Legal Aspects of Small Business**. Oakland-based small business attorney William Taylor, Esq. will show you how to best structure your company and fulfill your legal requirements. On Wed., May 13 from 5 to 7 p.m., learn the fundamentals of **Marketing and Advertising**. The workshop will cover pricing, promotion, developing an image for your company, advertising and selling. **A Score Pre-Business Workshop** and an **Enhanced Enterprise Community Revolving Loan Fund Orientation** are on tap Thurs., May 14. Call 273-6000 to reserve space or to receive information about other seminars.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service, a nonprofit community service organization in Oakland has a series of free workshops. **Investment Basics** will be held 6 to 8 p.m., Tues., May 12 at 333 Hegenberger Rd., Suite 710 in Oakland. Get acquainted with mutual funds, stocks and bonds. **Money 101** is on tap 6 to 8 p.m., Wed., May 13 at the Franklin Center in Alameda. Take a look at the different elements of spending and ways to recognize and take control of overspending. **I Hate to Budget**, a money-management workshop that covers goal setting and money-management techniques is scheduled for Mon., May 18 in Oakland. Registration is mandatory. For more information about these and other workshops, call (800) 501-SAVE

The University of California's Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr. in Berkeley presents Pamela Pierce, author of **Golden Gate Gardening**, 7 p.m., Thurs., May 14. A creative gardener with extensive experience, Pierce will present ideas for planning your garden. She will be signing copies of her newly revised book at the presentation. Call 643-2755 for more information.

Join author Mark Wilson as he leads a **Tour of Berkeley's Thousand Oaks Neighborhood**, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Sat., May 16. Prominent residents commissioned architects like Julia Morgan, John Hudson Thomas and Bernard Maybeck to design the neighborhood's grand homes. Cost is \$19. Call 234-4834 to reserve a space.

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority announces a **Home Compost Bin One-Day Sale** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat., May 16 at the Rite-Aid/Payless, 3848 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley and at the Wal-Mart, 30600 Dyer St., Union City. Alameda County residents will be able to choose from three varieties of bins: the Home Composter for \$17, the Worm Factory for \$25 and the Biostack for \$38. Bring identification to prove Alameda County residency. Discounted bins are limited to one bin and one worm bin per household. Second bins are available for a higher price. For more information call 444-SOIL.

The Women's Council of Realtors (WCR) invites you to its annual **Day at the Races** on Wed., May 20 at Golden Gate Fields. Gates open at 11:30, races start at noon. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from Lee Jacobson, Pacific Union call 339 6460.

Catherine Teegarden of Diablo Funding Group presents the free seminar **How To Make Money Using the FHA 203(k) Purchase/Rehab Loan**, 7 p.m., Thurs., May 28 at the First American Title Company, 1544 Webster St. in Oakland. Realtors can learn how to locate and market 203(k) fixer-uppers. Owner-occupants can buy property needing work for 5 percent down. Nonprofits can buy and fix up properties for the communities they serve. Alternative loans to replace 203(k)s - for investors are also discussed. Realtors, homebuyers, nonprofit organizations and investors are all welcome to attend. This workshop is held on an ongoing basis. Reservations are required. Call Catherine Teegarden at 339-1612 ext. 7 for reservations.

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority presents a free **Basic Composting Workshop**, 10 a.m. to noon, Sat. May. 30 (rain or shine) at the Oakland Compost Demonstration Garden, 666 Bellevue Ave. in Lakeside Park, adjacent to the Garden Center Building in Oakland. Learn how to compost yard and kitchen waste and transform trash into fertilizer. Call 444-SOIL for more information.

Join University of California pathologist Dr. Robert Raabe from 9 a.m. to noon the first Sat. of every month for a free **Sick Plant Clinic** at the UC Botanical Gardens, 200 Centennial Dr. in Berkeley. Drop in with a piece of a sick or a dying plant and Dr. Raabe will diagnose the problem. Call 643-2755 or garden@ucink4.berkeley.edu for more information.

Russell Doi of the Mortgage Network hosts free **First Time Homebuyer Seminar** on an ongoing basis. Learn about the many first-time homebuyer programs available today. Find out just how much home you can afford to buy. Receive a free booklet that will help you prepare for the biggest investment you may ever make. Call 526-6554 to make reservations.

The Orchid Society of California meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the Lake Merritt Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. Learn about orchids and their care. Purchase orchid plants at the members' plant sale before the meeting. Orchid lecturers share their knowledge and provide plants for a raffle. Join the camaraderie and learn about the beautiful world of orchids. Call 531-1210 for more information.

The Golden Gate Cymbidium Society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Wed. of each month at the Lake Merritt Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. A plant sale is featured before the meeting affording you the opportunity to purchase quality cymbidiums. These meetings feature expert growers from around world with their slides and valuable tips for growing cymbidiums. Attend this meeting and learn how to grow and bloom these beautiful plants. Call 531-1210 for more information.

For inclusion in Events, send information to Dennis Evanovsky, Real Estate Editor, Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland, 94619. Phone: 439-4047, Fax: 339-4066. Information must be received one week prior to publication.

El Niño deadline

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued nearly \$3.6 million in grants to Bay Area residents.

FEMA spokeswoman Elizabeth Quirk said that the agency has given out 3,340 grants to residents of counties in the Bay Area as well as to residents of Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. FEMA has received 11,866 applications from these counties.


She said the agency has given priority to applicants forced out of their homes by storm damage. Some of the applications have been for small-business loans,

major home repair loans or help with insurance shortfalls.

A total of \$736,487 has been paid to 2,271 applicants and 531 grant recipients in Alameda County. Contra Costa County residents have received a total of \$514,775 for 2,018 applications and 380 grants.

To find out the status of applications or to learn about disaster aid programs, call (800) 525-0321.

The deadline for filing for federal disaster assistance is May 8. The telephone number to register is (800) 462-9029.



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NEW LISTING! 1535 17TH ST. Two units. Upst (PENDING) Downstairs 1 BD, 1 BA. \$285,000
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118 LAWRENCE (SOLD) 2 1/2 BA, many upst. \$60,000
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OPEN SUN. 2-4 - 2633 HAROLD, Dimond Dist. 2 BD, 1 BA, formal dining room. REDUCED to \$130,000!
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 2 Eclipse Ct. - \$245,000
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 15 Gonsalves Ct. - \$522,500
 202 Ironwood Rd. - \$235,000
 2911 Jackson St. - \$365,000
 1021 Kingston Ln. - \$200,000
 122 Lawrence Rd. - \$425,000
 1609 Lincoln Ave. - \$360,000
 1125 Morton St. - \$326,500
 1710 Palmera Ct. - \$725,000
 1541 Santa Clara - \$200,000
 1825 Shoreline #311 - \$95,000
 2916 Southwood Dr. - \$552,500
 100 Sweet Rd. - \$373,000
 1305 Webster #C309 - \$90,500

ALBANY
 1222 Marin Ave. - \$252,500
 535 Pierce St. #1217 - \$157,500

BERKELEY
 2310 Acton St. - \$137,000
 916 Bancroft Way - \$197,500
 1514 California St. - \$85,500
 2598 College Ave. - \$230,000
 3037 Deakin St. - \$255,000
 159 El Camino Real - \$516,000
 26 El Camino Real - \$625,000

2947 Elmwood Ct. - \$485,000
 2619 Etna St. - \$180,000
 1136 Francisco St. - \$239,000
 2019 Hearst Ave. - \$245,000
 2350 Hilgard Ave. #7 - \$226,000
 714 Hilldale Ave. - \$550,000
 1641 Lincoln St. - \$365,000
 1521 McGee Ave. - \$289,000
 2900 Otis St. - \$236,000
 1830 Sonoma Ave. - \$371,000
 2620 Stuart St. - \$442,500

EL CERRITO
 1752 Arlington Blvd. - \$210,000
 7345 Pebble Beach Way - \$440,000
 5347 Poinsett Ave. - \$262,000
 1009 Richmond St. - \$222,000

EL SOBRANTE
 5699 Circle Dr. - \$118,000
 3937 La Cresenta Rd. - \$119,500

EMERYVILLE
 1 Captain Dr. #D367 - \$134,000
 6363 Christie #1614 - \$143,000
 6363 Christie #2225 - \$138,000

KENSINGTON
 1619 Oakview Ave. - \$276,000
 687 Oberlin Ave. - \$250,000

OAKLAND
 2241 41st Ave. - \$130,000

562 56th St. - \$140,000
 1068 61st St. - \$122,000
 1182 64th St. - \$94,000
 1434 89th Ave. - \$120,000
 1736 9th Ave. - \$90,000
 3089 Bantry Ave. - \$120,000
 5308 Bryant Ave. - \$270,000
 6150 Bullard Dr. - \$286,000
 3525 Calafia Ave. - \$179,000
 300 Caldecott #306 - \$134,000
 300 Caldecott #317 - \$130,000
 300 Caldecott #320 - \$137,000
 300 Caldecott #328 - \$199,000
 300 Caldecott #330 - \$137,000
 300 Caldecott #331 - \$136,000
 5315 Camden St. - \$95,000
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 4733 El Centro Ave. - \$265,000
 4291 Fair Ave. - \$265,000
 4710 Fair Ave. - \$95,000
 44 Farragut Ave. - \$650,000
 4065 Fruitvale Ave. - \$265,000
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 980 Scott St. - \$262,500
 4501 Sequoyah Rd. - \$272,000
 4951 Stoneridge Ct. - \$349,000
 859 Sunnyhills Rd. - \$319,000
 10501 Tamarisk Dr. - \$295,000
 7 Tanglewood Rd. - \$715,000
 2001 Tiffin Rd. - \$345,000
 3965 Waterhouse Rd. - \$239,500
 635 Wesley Ave. - \$194,500
 3107 West St. - \$105,000

2849 Loyola Ave. - \$138,500
 3609 McBryde Ave. - \$133,000
 1685 Merced St. - \$100,000
 5438 Santa Cruz Ave. - \$93,000
 4101 Solano Ave. - \$149,000
 332 South 41st St. - \$115,000
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See HOMES on page C

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\$125,000 3844 MAYBELLE. A large 2 BD, 1 1/2 BA condo in a quiet neighborhood above MacArthur. Located in a small complex with fireplace and covered parking. Russ Grant 814-4713

\$135,000 3809 WHITFIELD. 1 BA starter home in nice neighborhood. Attached garage. PENDING. Call 521-4837

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\$138,000 2824 ATWOOD. One-level bungalow with hardwood floors & 2-car attached garage. Call Colly & Tom Young 814-4841

\$139,500 6470 MacARTHUR. Two townhouse-style units in good condition! Both units are 2 BD, 1 BA. Close to Mills College. Kathy Hirsch 814-4706

\$189,000 912 E. 15th. Two - 1 bedroom, 1 bath. PENDING. Great location, close to shopping, great location. Probate sale. Martha Turner 814-4828

\$239,500 3245 FLORIDA. A 3 bedroom, 2 bath Laurel District home with hardwood floors, formal dining room, large eat-in kitchen with tile floor, basement room, patio room with fireplace and garage! Russ Grant 814-4713

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\$439,000 1910 SAN ANTONIO. Custom 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home with detached garage. Hardwood floors, French doors & windows, stone fireplace, stone patio off living room and a secluded private level backyard. Tere Lee 521-3352

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\$182,000 14165 SEAGATE. 3 BD 2 1/2 BA condo in a quiet neighborhood. Fireplace and all appliances. Community pool, spa and tennis court. Tere Lee 521-3352

\$185,500 14315 SEAGATE. Immaculate 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath and unit condo with many upgrades! Community pool, spa and tennis court. Tere Lee 521-3352

\$195,000 13402 AURORA DR. Just listed! Mulford Gardens! Sharp 2 bedroom, 1 1/4 bath home located on a large corner lot. Fine features include fireplace, hardwood floors, and 2-car attached garage. Wonderful yard. Steve Cressy 814-4818

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\$117,000 39 VILLA. 3 BD 1 1/2 BA townhome in a quiet neighborhood. Private back yard with detached garage. Near schools and shopping. Elaine Milin 865-7747

\$117,000 18 VILLA. 3 BD 1 1/2 BA end-unit townhome. Hardwood floors, new tile, new kitchen & shopping. Donn Gutierrez 814-4854

El Cerrito

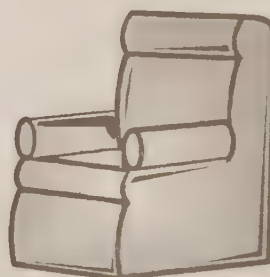
\$120,000 LOT 68 DEVONSHIRE. Prime lot! Beautiful home with fireplace & Bay! Prestigious Alameda area. Walk to Mira Vista Golf Course. Steve Cressy 814-4818

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\$310,000 7862 OAK CREEK DR. Split-level 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home with formal dining, family room, detached garage! Sunny back yard with deck and landscaping, close to shopping, great location. Marcia McIntyre 814-4827

\$489,000 2761 SANDERLING WAY. Very large 5 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home with 1 bedroom and full bath on main level! Large kitchen & nook, formal dining, family room and dual pane windows. Great yard with pool, waterfall & spa. Linda Soulagas 814-4843

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by Buzz Bertolero

Q: Three years ago, I purchased six roses for our backyard. Unfortunately, we have not yet planted them permanently and they have rooted into the soil. How and when can I replant them? Can I bare root them this winter? Can I try to plant them now and cut the roots at the ground level? (I think that's just wishful thinking).

A: The answer to all your questions is yes. If the new location is ready, I would prune back the top growth severely, 50 to 60 percent, cut the roots off at the ground level and transplant them to their new home. This can be done when the temperatures are under 90°F. If temperatures exceed 90, wait until the roses go dormant. Roses are tough plants and can take a lot of abuse.

Q: We have two Olive trees that bloom profusely but the olives never develop. Can you furnish any information that can explain this?

A: This is an unusual question as most people want to know how to stop Olives from fruiting. Insufficient moisture in the soil profile from March to May prevents perfect flower formation in olives. Staminate (male) flowers will not form olives; only perfect flowers form the olive fruit. Dry conditions reduce perfect flower formation, and moisture stress also leads to poor fruit set.

Olives in California require substantial winter chilling for good fruiting. Optimum flowering occurs when the temperatures dur-

How to make your backyard just a little rosier

ing the winter fluctuate daily between 60-65°F maximum and 35-40°F minimum. Trees held at a constant temperature of 55°F also bloom profusely but they have poor pistillate flower formation. At 55°F both chilling and warmth are sufficient for flowering but not for complete flower development.

Next time the trees bloom, check out the flowers carefully to see if there is a "little olive" inside. If only anthers and petals are present, you have imperfect flowers that will never set fruit.

Q: Now that my sunflowers have stopped blooming, do I need to do anything to dry the seeds for propagation? Also will these seeds grow true to their parents or am I in for a surprise? These were 18 inch tall Burpee seeds that produced beautiful blooms on short stalks. I would like to plant them all about my rather large lot next year but if they are going to be 10 feet tall I will skip the experience.

A: Yes, you are in for a surprise. At this point, you have no idea on what height will be in the next generation. Actually, no one knows for sure until you sow the seeds and see what germinates.

It is not necessary to scarify the seed of herbaceous plants like sunflowers. As the sunflower seed matures, it separates from the flower head. The easiest way to gather the seeds is to cover the flower with a plastic bag, shake the flower, and the mature seeds will drop into the bag. After you have harvested the seeds, I would store them in glass jars and keep them refrigerated until you're ready to sow it next spring.

Q: I have a problem with my three year old trumpet vine. It is planted in a 10 foot by two foot trellis box and has never bloomed.

On an alternating weekly basis, I feed it Alaskan bloom and Alaskan Fish food. The plant is producing abundant healthy leaves, but no flowers. Could you please advise?

A: You are over-feeding the trumpet vine so that all it wants to do is produce vegetation and not to bloom. I would stop using all fertilizers and stress the plant by not watering it until it begins to wilt. With the winter coming on you may not see the effect until next year. Next year, I would fertilize the water sparingly for a season long color show.

Q: We have several mature cherry trees. One is a Bing and the other has four varieties grafted on, Bing, Black Tartarian, Queen Anne, and one other. At various times, specially after cold winters, they have been prolific producers, but in the last two years production has been scanty. In addition, with recent wet and dry cycles a lot of branch ends have died off and show evidence of borers. Do fruiting trees have a natural life span which they are now reaching? Is there another problem? Is there any chance of saving them and restoring production? Should we remove the trees and plant new ones?

A: In our clay soil, ten to twenty years is about all one can expect from peach, plum, cherry and apricot trees. Warm winter temperatures, wet weather during the blooming season, and the lack of bees are the primary cause of poor

cherry production. You can slow the decline of the tree, but I don't think that you can reverse it. How often are you watering these trees during the summer months? Two to three times a week is all that is necessary with mature fruit trees. Remember to apply the water at the drip line, not at the trunk. I would plant new trees to replace the older ones and remove the declining trees when the die back reaches 50 percent.

Q: I have been under the impression that flowers and flowering plants in containers should be fertilized once or twice a month in the spring with a nitrogen fertilizer until they bud, then twice a month with a 0-10-10 during the budding and blooming period. The instructions on these high nitrogen fertilizers would have one believe that flowering plants, in fact all plants, should be fertilized every couple of weeks year round. What is the proper way and time to fertilize flowering plants? Also, would dunking a potted plant in a bucket of water until all the bubbles are gone be a good way to water plants on a regular basis?

A: Plants in containers require more fertilizer than similar plants in the ground. With each and every watering, mineral nutrients are depleted from the soil as it drains out the bottom of the pot.

With plants in same container for more than 18 months, it is more critical to fertilize as there is mainly just a root mass and very little soil left. The fertilizers you

refer to are water soluble and are immediately available to the plants. They dissipate very quickly and have to be reapplied frequently.

Because of this problem, I recommend Osmocote to fertilize containerized plants. Osmocote is a time release fertilizer that releases some nutrients with every watering. It comes in several formulations so you can make one application that lasts an entire season.

With annuals and other blooming plants, you can supplement the Osmocote with a water soluble fertilizer or with 0-10-10. I definitely would use 0-10-10 on Camellias, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Gardenias, Roses and Citrus between October and March.

Unless your area is very shady, I would water containerized plants daily from April to October. For those that are water stressed, submerging them in a bucket is an ideal way to make sure that the root ball is thoroughly wet.

Q: I need help with my two year old Irish Moss. It is planted under a Fruitless Mulberry in a mixture

of sand and adobe between pavers. It gets afternoon sun, is lightly watered, and fertilized with Miracle-Gro. The moss is turning a dull green just before it turns brown. This starts at the edge and works inward and dies. What should I be doing?

A: I think the Irish Moss is suffering from water stress. A few hours after your next watering would check the soil moisture looking at a soil profile. This is done by taking a trowel and digging two perpendicular lines twelve inches long. At the point they intersect, gently lift the top exposing the soil profile.

The soil should be moist. You can test this by taking a handful of soil and squeezing it. The soil should remain in the shape of a fist when you open your hand. If the soil crumbles quickly, then it is in need of moisture.

To correct this, I would suggest increasing the amount of time the area is watered. Also, to help with the water penetration, I would use "Water Wet" to the area. "Water Wet" breaks the soil surface tension, allowing the moisture to soak into the soil instead of running to low areas.

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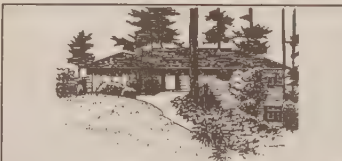


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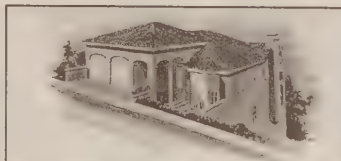
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Zoom into 21st century

KEANE ON WHEELS

Tom Keane

Saab's 1999 9-5 sedan enables the automaker to leap to the 21st century on solid footing. Now competitive manufacturers will have to catch up with some innovative features. Until today Saab has more or less been an also-ran manufacturer content just to build safe, reliable cars. Each new model is usually an upgrade of the previous one. But Saab has designed the 9-5 (pronounced nine five) from a clean sheet of paper.

Although its heritage is obvious, much of its content is new. Saab's heritage goes back about 70 years when it was a noted airplane manufacturer. Aircraft aerodynamic styling is incorporated into the 9-5 giving it an exceptionally low (.029) coefficient of drag.

One advantage of a car like the 9-5 that can silently slip through the air is a quiet interior. The cockpit has airplane characteristics with the instruments and control facing the "pilot" or driver, who can adjust the steering wheel both up and down, forward and aft.

Turn to our Auto Locator on page to see where you can learn more about Saab's 1999 9-5 Sedan

There are three memorized seat positions, which also reposition the outside mirrors. As an option, the seats are available with perforated leather covers, allowing cool air to circulate from underneath, eliminating the irritation of a sweaty back and backside. In cold weather, these seats can be heated. Another cooling device is refrigerated air that circulates around a soda can kept in the glove compartment.

The 9-5 has dual climate controls in which the driver can set a different cabin temperature than the passenger. That heated (or air conditioned) temperature also conducts filtered cabin air to the rear seat passengers through a separate vent.

Proving that Saab wants safety to perform in real life, not just in the laboratories, the manufacturer displayed two 9-5s that were crashed head on at a combined speed of 65 mph.



Saab has designed the 9-5 (pronounced nine five) from a clean sheet of paper breaking the mold while introducing safety features that other manufacturers will soon be copying.

Although the front ends were demolished, the passenger's compartments remained intact. This was not surprising, because Saab has always been noted for safety.

Saab introduced another innovative safety feature on the 9-5 to reduce whiplash resulting from rear-end collision. It is a simple device within the backrest that utilizes the rear-end force. As the force rises, the head rest gently slides. This innovation is one that I'm sure

other manufacturers will soon be copying.

Saab's luxury sedan is available with the choice of a four-cylinder or a V-6 engine. Both offer automatic transmission, but the manual shifter (only available with the smaller engine) seems to float from gear

to gear. I was astonished when I learned that these engines were turbocharged, because the eco-power is so smooth that it's undetectable.

Although these engines have modest horsepower, the low-end

See SAAB on page 2

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Detailing your car should be a nit-picking experience

DRIVE, SHE SAID

By Denise McCluggage

It should not come as a surprise that something called "detailing" depends on attending to details. If you're not up to taking cotton swabs to every louver on the ventilation ducts in your car, or manipulating soft cotton cloths around every button and fold of your upholstery to wipe away the residue of leather conditioner, then you'll either have to make do with a generalist's view of a clean car or go to the professionals.

Professional detailers are everywhere. It's a car poor town without several. Some have simply mounted a new sign on their old car wash. Some have elaborate establishments. Others make house calls. Depending on where you live and how detailed a detailing you

want, the pros get \$100 upwards for doing a job on your car.

If you'd rather do it yourself here are some guidelines to avoid mistakes many novice detailers make.

Use the right products. What's fine for dishes can be deadly to your car's finish. You already know not to use household detergents to wash your car, right? And don't waste your efforts using the cheapest stuff on the auto supply shop's shelf. Buy good cleaners, waxes and polishes.

Use the proper tools. If you have any old cotton diapers or tightly woven cotton T-shirts, they are perfect for this job. Also useful are often-washed cotton terry-cloth towels.

Be sure to have a wide assortment of cotton swabs, soft artist brushes, soft sponge applicators on hand as well. Some auto shops sell detailing kits. Look them over.

Working on a hot car. A what about a car that's been sitting in the sun or is still warm with engine heat. A warm surface will dry anything you put on it too fast, making your job harder and even creating streaks and blobs. Not a happy detail.

Even handy spray stuff should be sprayed on the applicator first, not directly to the surface. This avoids overspray. Specially made sponge applicators that look rather like a dishwashing implement are good for an even spreading of vinyl protectant on a dash, for instance.

Do the interior first. Do the inside of the car before the outside. Get your vacuuming done while the area is still dry. It's safer. Do all the little tiny dusting jobs (those air vents and the instrument panel) while your resolve is keenest. Shampooing carpets or cleaning spots on cloth upholstery first gives them more time to dry.

Prepare properly. Get all the sponges and buckets and cloths and supplies together first. Plan the stages (the interior, washing the exterior, cleaning the work place, drying, waxing or polishing.)

After washing the car, hose away all the dirt and grime where you are working to lessen the risk of grit contaminating applicators and scratching the paint.

Then before applying wax or polish, tape any textured trim or coat it with a protectant. This will help keep residue from getting imbedded in the texture.

From the top down. When you paint a wall you start at the top and work down. Do the same when you wash the car so that dirty water doesn't run over already cleaned areas. (It's not just that you have to do the work twice, but that errant grit might go unnoticed and scratch the paint later.)

Finally, take a close look. The close-up eye can see details (that word again) but needs to be tempered with a varied view to spot missed places. (Often the tire wells and the underside of the bumpers). If you can't get low enough to see the low places, feel with your hand.



Although the entire car was rebuilt, this 1960 Edsel's original 292-cubic-inch V-8 engine still nestles where it was installed 38 years ago, still producing 185 horsepower with the help of a two-barrel carburetor.

College graduate found his best deal in 1960 Edsel

CLASSIC CLASSICS

By Vern Parker

Jim Popp was barely eligible to get his driver's license when Ford Motor Co. began developing the Edsel in 1954. It was a time the flathead V-8 engine had been retired and the company was recovering from near collapse during the last days of its founder in the 1940s.

As a student, Popp had use of a 1950 Mercury sedan that was about half rusted away. So in 1960, with college graduation — and a real job with real money in sight — Popp went shopping.

He looked at most of the 1960 offerings and, with his mathematical mind working overtime, figured out the 1960 Edsel, at about one-third off, was the best bargain.

What really convinced him was the fact that the mechanical parts beneath the skin of the car were made up of a Ford drivetrain.

In the last year of production, only 1,288 four-door sedans were manufactured. Popp still has the original window sticker of his first spanking new car. It indicates the white over Sahara beige sedan carried a base price of \$2,697.

The well-appointed 3,700-pound sedan was assembled in Louisville, Ky., and with \$26 in transportation costs and optional equipment added in, the asking price soared to \$3,272.05. Popp sold the old Mercury for \$75 and then talked the Edsel dealer into knocking about one-third off the price.

For 1960, Edsel had abandoned the horse-collar-grille styling, and from a distance the silhouettes of 1960 Fords and Edsels were virtually indistinguishable. The wheel-base of the Edsel was bumped up to 120 inches, an inch longer than Ford's 119 inches to make room for an improved five-leaf spring rear suspension system.

To further differentiate the Edsel from the Ford, the Edsel stylists accented the rear of the car with four vertical windsplits running down to the rear of the car where they ended in a quartet of vertical ovals, two red and two white. A pair of ribs at each end of the rear bumper visually continues the line under the taillights.

At the front of the car, the regular Ford grille was used with a chrome interruption in the center that gave the appearance of a 1959 Pontiac.

Popp found the headliner was in very good condition, but the fabric on the seats was shot. After an exhaustive search, he located a weaver who could duplicate the fabric.

"Great," thought Popp. "I'll take four yards." That's when he learned the minimum order was 200 yards.

He bit the bullet, ordered 200 yards, used four yards on his own car and sold the remainder to other Edsel owners restoring their cars for enough to pay for his upholstery.

The entire upholstery episode consumed two years. The Edsel "E" is stamped into the vinyl part of the upholstery. That same "E" motif is on the front sill plates, too.

The original 292-cubic-inch V-8 engine produces 185 horsepower with the help of a two-barrel carburetor. The engine still nestles where it was installed 38 years ago.

The view from the driver's seat is panoramic thanks to a gargantuan windshield that not only wraps around the sides, but also over the top.

In the last seven years, the car has been driven only 7,000 miles, and most of that driving has been to antique car shows.

With 123,000 miles on the odometer, Popp has absolutely no regrets that he ever bought his handsome Edsel.

"It was unique then and it's unique now," he says with pride.

Saab

Continued from page D-1

torque provides quick and strong acceleration.

I drove the 9-5 over hilly, winding roads which demonstrated the car's handling characteristic. This car handles like a dream and provides just enough sound and feel feedback to keep in touch with the road.

The trunk is one of the largest in the midsize segment. If more cargo space is required, the rear seatbacks can be lowered. But here is where I noticed a flaw; there

is no lockout device on the seatbacks.

Typical of the malarkey that goes with all press introductions, Saab is predicting a 35 percent increase in sales.

But I tend to believe them for two reasons: This is a much better car and, although the car will range in price anywhere from \$29,995 to \$38,000 depending upon options, the Saab 9-4 is priced lower than its previous models.

Without doubt, the 9-5 is a distinctive leader, which means the competition have now become the also-rans.

Saab 9-5 sedan specifications

VEHICLE TYPE: 5-passenger 4-door midsize luxury sedan

BASE PRICE: \$29,995

ENGINE TYPE: 4-cylinder turbocharged w/Trionic fuel injection

DISPLACEMENT: 2.3-liter

HORSEPOWER (net): 170 at 5500 rpm

TORQUE (lb-ft): 207 at 1800 rpm

TRANSMISSION: 5-speed synchronized manual

WHEELBASE: 106 in., 2703 mm

TREAD (front/rear): 60/60 in. 1522/1522 mm

OVERALL LENGTH: 189 in., 4805 mm

OVERALL WIDTH: 70 in., 1792 mm

HEIGHT: 57 in., 1449 mm

TURNING CIRCLE (curb-to-curb): 35 ft., 10.5 mm

CURB WEIGHT: 3280 lbs., 1488 kg

FUEL CAPACITY: 19 gals., 72 liters

EPA MILEAGE RATING: 21 city, 27 highway

ASSEMBLY PLANT: Trollhattan, Sweden

STRONG FEATURES: Safety, handling

WEAK FEATURE: No rear seat lockout

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SCOTT KERNS



Auto accidents are expensive, but car owners in California don't always depend on their insurance company to pay for the damage.

According to a recent survey by the Independent Insurance Agents of America (IIAA), a national insurance trade association, one in five car owners involved in an accident have paid to fix the damage to their car or another's vehicle or property rather than file a claim.

This startling statistic proves that the number of auto insurance claims filed annually grossly underesti-

mates the actual extent and cost of damage due to auto accidents.

Many drivers are afraid that their insurance companies will penalize them for filing claims by dropping their auto insurance policy, or significantly raising their premiums. However, those fears are largely unfounded. According to another study conducted by ICR Research Group, more than 93 percent of survey respondents say their auto insurance policies have never been dropped or non-renewed by their insurance companies.

While it's true that expensive multiple claims are one of the main factors contributing to higher insurance premiums for some consumers, few are at risk. In fact, only one in ten said they had filed more than one claim in the last three years.

Consumers can save money, and possibly lives, by visiting with an insurance agent and discussing ways to avoid accidents through safe and defensive driving. The IIAA survey also showed that a majority of car owners are relatively savvy when it comes to saving money on auto insurance.

Consumers don't have to settle for mediocre coverage at a mediocre price, especially in today's competitive auto insurance market. Car owners can potentially save hundreds of dollars every year by taking two simple

steps. First, you should regularly review your auto insurance policy with your agent. Second, you should inquire about premium discounts.

Nearly 85 percent of survey respondents said they take advantage of premium discounts offered by their insurance agent or company to save money on their auto insurance. And, three out of four drivers said they had reviewed their auto policies within the last year.

The most frequently used premium discounts are offered to drivers who are accident free, those with multiple cars on one policy and those who own automobiles equipped with air bags and anti-lock brakes. However, there are other ways to lower your auto insurance premiums. For example:

through an independent agent who can get you premium quotes from a number of different insurance companies.

- Request higher deductibles on collision and comprehensive (fire and theft) coverage. Shouldering more of the cost of future claims can save you as much as 20 percent on the comp/collision portion of your auto insurance policy.

- Drop collision and/or comprehensive coverage on older cars that have little or no value.

- Buy a "low-profile" car that is less expensive to repair and choose a model that is not a favorite target for thieves.

- Inquire about low-mileage discounts.

- Ask about "package" discounts available for combining auto with

homeowner's insurance/renter's insurance, and umbrella liability insurance. These can save an additional 5 to 15 percent.

Before deciding on changing your auto insurance policy, visit a professional independent agent who can discuss your policy coverage and make cost-saving recommendations. Visiting an agent and asking the right questions may end up saving you money, and probably more importantly you will be properly insured. The independent agent will help you through the claims process which can be difficult and stressful to someone unfamiliar with the way insurance companies settle claims.

Scott Kerns is an independent insurance agent at BayR Insurance Brokers, Inc. in Alameda. Call him at 523-3433.

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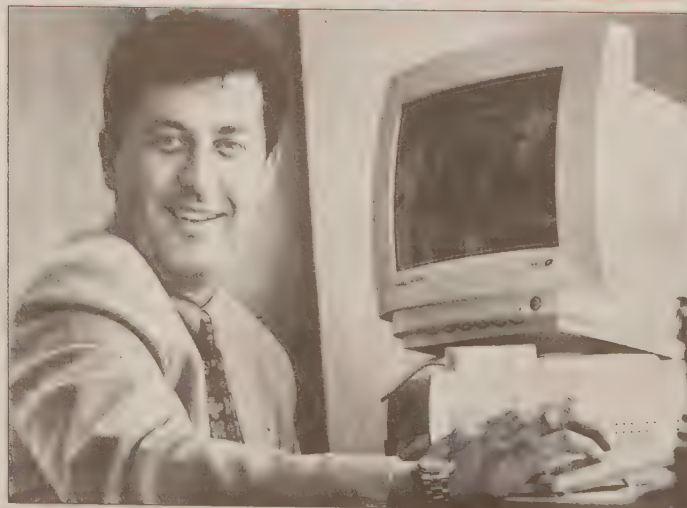
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The bucking Mercury; PGMFI defined; climate control minus the heat

Auto Q&A

By Todd Hayes

Q: I have a 1993 Mercury Sable with a 3 liter V6 and automatic transmission. When driving slowly in traffic, the car bucks and jerks when I accelerate lightly. I also notice the same symptoms intermittently during highway driving. Any suggestions? Jose Rodriguez - Houston, Texas.

A: Seek help from your dealer to correct your

Mercury's bucking and jerking. Start by checking the basics - electrical connections, grounds, fuel pressure and the ignition system.

Check the TPS (Throttle Position Sensor) for erratic signals causing bucking and jerking. If your Sable has a tachometer, check the Mitchell On-Demand technical service bulletin No. 90-10-4.

Interference in the signal line for the tachometer may be finding it's way into other circuits, causing drivability problems. A resistor wire is available to suppress the noise. Thanks for writing.

Q: I have a 1991 Honda Civic with a 5 speed transmission. Sometimes while sitting in traffic, the PGMFI light will come on and the idle goes to about 1500 RPM's. The car runs fine otherwise. I had a tune up done but the problem still exists. What does PGMFI mean, and should I worry about it? Ray Hickey - Houston.

That "PGMFI" on your dash stands for Programmed Fuel Injection. This is the computer system that controls fuel, ignition and emissions for the engine. Whenever the PGMFI computer detects a problem in the

system, it stores a trouble code in memory and automatically turns on the warning light you saw.

Q: I have a 1988 Buick Park Avenue with automatic climate control. Everything seems fine except there is no heat. The air comes out the floor as normal but it is always cold. Could this be an electronic problem? Harry Johnson - Houston, Texas.

A: Have the climate-control programmer checked. A failing programmer can leave you in the cold.

Check to make sure that the cooling system and the rest of the climate control system is in order first.

Around the industry

AUTO SHORTS

SEOUL, South Korea—Kia Motors corp. and its Asia Motors affiliate have been put into the hands of an official receiver by a Korean court. The receiver is empowered to begin selling the companies piece by piece and building by building if he chooses.

It is believed an immediate breakup is a remote possibility. The appointment of textile executive Yoo Chong-Yul as receiver

finally clears the way for Kia to be sold.

That possibility started last July when the company first sought court protection under pressure from its lenders. I

DETROIT, Mich.—Chevrolet will begin selling in June, 1998 Cavalier sedans that run on both gasoline and compressed natural gas.

The option will add \$5,800 onto the Cavalier's base price, Chevrolet officials said. The CNG tank is housed in the trunk of the car. It holds an equivalent of 6.9 gallons.

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* 001744. All prices + tax, lic & doc fees. ** Prior rental vehicle.

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*MSRP for a 9-5 2.3 does not include \$550 destination charge. Taxes insurance, title, reg fees & optional equipment extra. **Active head restraint front seat only. ***V6 engine & ventilated front seats are optional equipment available at additional costs. Ventilated seats first in passenger cars. Ad expires 48 hours after publication date.

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<p>'98 CAMRYS</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$16,988</p> <p>OR LEASE \$198** per mo. FOR ONLY</p> <p>Equipped Great! Air, AM/FM Cass., Mats & More!</p> <p><small>**36 mo. pymts of \$198 + tax. Drive off \$2135.99 + tax. Total of pymts \$7128. Option to buy \$11,526.76 based on 12k mi/yr. #012778. 1 at this price.</small></p>	<p>'98 4RUNNERS</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$26,977</p> <p>OR LEASE \$299** per mo. FOR ONLY</p> <p>SRS, V6, Automatic, Sunroof, All Power & More!</p> <p><small>**36 mo. pymts of \$299 + tax. Drive off \$3690.61 + tax. Total of pymts \$10,764. Option to buy \$19,626.10 based on 12k mi/yr. #012778. 1 at this price.</small></p>

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\$319 per mo. + tax 42 months
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- Moon Roof
- Tilt
- Cruise
- Power Windows
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- Power Seat
- CD/Cassette

Total payments \$16,162.86. Price \$21,995 after rebate. \$345.46/month total, 42 mo. closed end lease. \$250 term fee, \$550 bank fee, 12,000 mi/year, 15¢/mi penalty if over. \$999 down + \$1,000 factory rebate as drive off, residual \$12,503. Chrome wheels extra. Need credit score 700. #24804/110292, #24808/109653, #24811/109991, #24829/110326

'98 CHRYSLER SEBRING JXI
\$389 per mo. + tax 35 months
\$1399 total cash out of pocket
Loaded! 1/2 at this price.

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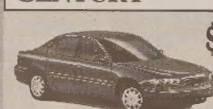
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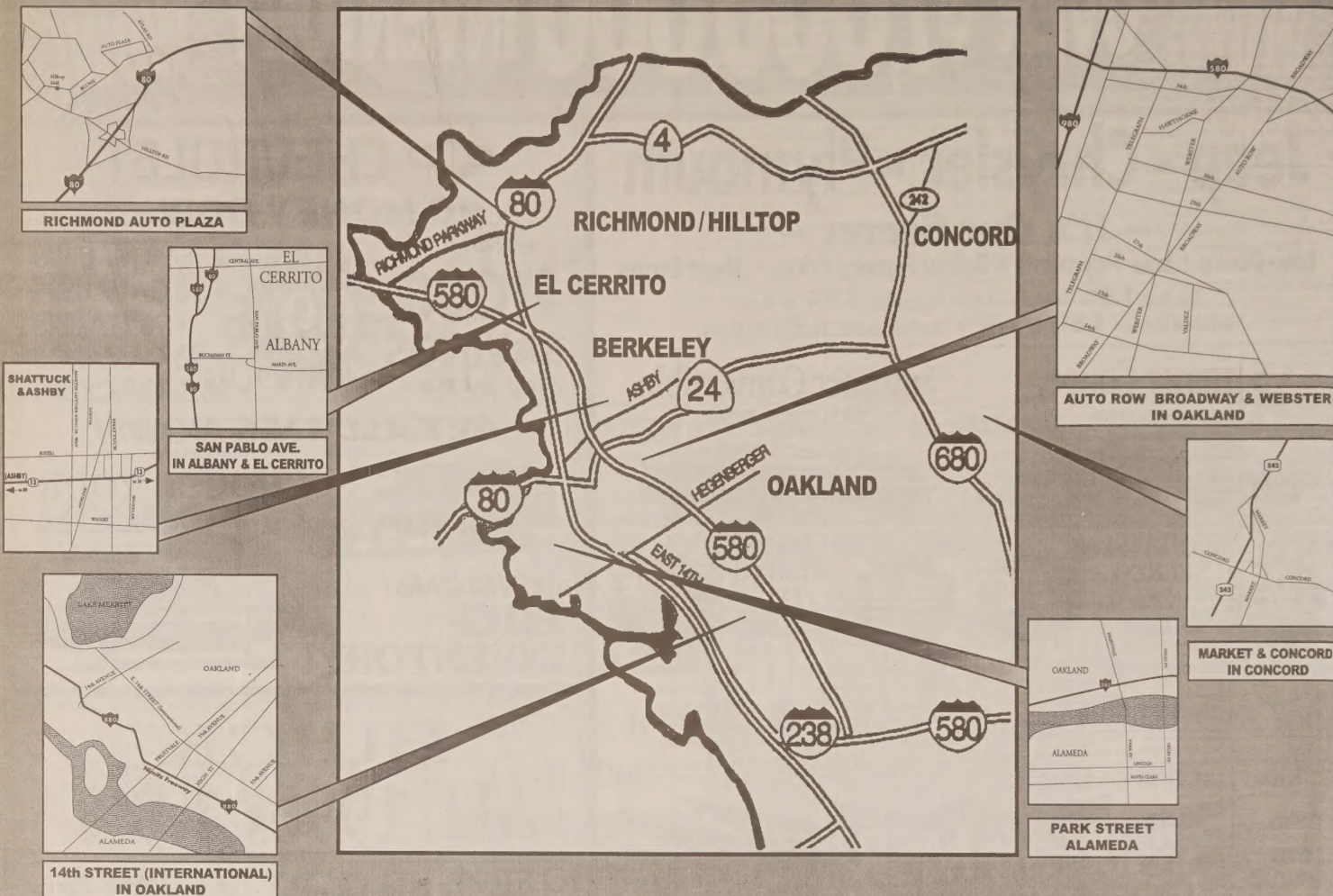
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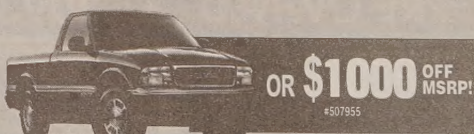
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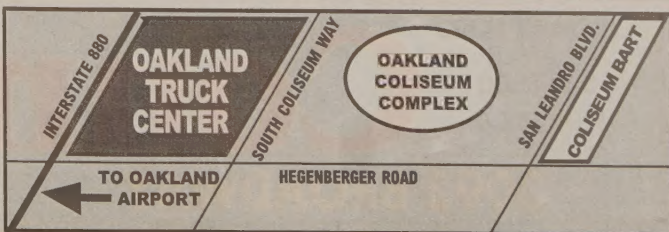


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